

IN THE TABLOID:

**EVERY HOME** LD HAVE THEM



DAVID BADDIEL:



HOLIDAYS IN CYBERSPACE PLUS IT APPOINTMENTS



# Major slides backwards into the sleazy mire

sleaze, but John Major promptly dragged his party back into the mire with a clear warning to Neil Hamilton that he could be expelled from the Commons if he persisted in standing for the

In an astonishing open letter to all Conservative association chairmen, the Prime Minister said that the Commons had "draconian powers" to act

Although it did not mention Mr Hamilton by name, the letter's message was clear: "Allthese many issues may be unresolved now but they won't remain unresolved for long," it

The move was being read as a last ditch attempt to persuade the Tory association in Tatton not to endorse Mr Hamilton as their candidate at his adoption meeting on 7 April, and as a final appeal to

get him to stand down. The report of the Commons Select Committee on Standards and Privileges would be pub-

SAF asbestos claims Two dozen black South African workers are to give evidence in London against the British companies which they say poi-

soned them with mercury and

Marching begins
The sharp divisions within Ulster

localism were publicly encapsa-

lated vesterday when the new

marching season's liest disputed

parade passed off with an serious

neident in worth Belfast Page 5

Kinshasa waits

Rebels are advancing in the cast.

Western troops are lurking

across the river, and one of the

president's closest allies has

just denounced him, yet in

Zaire's plendered capital of

THE BROADSHEET

**SUITEKLY** 

lished after the election and if it-criticised Conservative MPs. Mr Major said: "I for one will wish Parliament to act quickly to raise the election above and decisively to uphold its reputation.

The House of Commons has draconian powers. The Conservative Party will support their use if criticism is severe enough to merit it. It can, of course, also withdraw the whip if that seems appropriate."

Mr Major will today reinforce the message with a Westminster press conference. which is now certain to be dominated by questions of sleaze. By taking the issue head on, the Prime Minister is attempting to burn out the sleaze controversy and get the Conservatives back on track before the launch of their election manifesto

Unsubstantiated allegations "should not cheat the electorate of the debate about which party is best suited to form the government for the next five years". Mr Major

A senior party source said last night: "The party is frustrated that the election campaign has been diverted from the real is-

I'll accentuate the positive, says Blair Cvril Smith's warning for Ashdown. Election countdown, page 7;

Letters, page 13; Let Tatton judge, Andreas Whittam Smith, page 15

not ducking these issues. He is willing to deal with them, and

sues. The Prime Minister is the seat is for the candidate. The Conservative campaign risks becoming more mired in Clearly disclosing his own questions against Mr Hamilton.

6 Sleaze may hurt the Tories, but it hurts politics too. It hurts this election. It helps nobody 9

tion campaign, the Prime Minister said that under Tory party rules, he did not have the pow-er to impose new candidates on the constituencies, but he

frustration at his failure to get on to policy issues in the elec-tion campaign, the Prime Min-Merchant, the MP for Beckenham, at a time when Labour strategists believed that the public were becoming tired of

Unveiling Labour's campaign

slogan "Britain deserves better", Mr Blair yesterday he wanted to raise the campaign above

ordered the "two-faced" John Major posters to be replaced with positive messages on new sites across Britain. "Sleaze may hurt the Tories, but it hurts politics too. It hurts this election. It helps nobody," he said.
The launch of Labour's cam-

paign in the sumptuous grounds of a Kent country house hotel was intended to focus Labour's appeal at Conservative voters in the key Tory marginals.

While Mr Major fights sleaze, Alan Howarth, the Tory defector to Labour, will today be used by his new party's leadership to appeal to floating Conservative voters to trust Mr Blair, as the two main parties begin their clection campaigns in earnest.
Giving top billing to Mr
Howarth, the former Tory MP for

Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, Labour campaign strategists led by Peter Mandelson are changing the tone of their campaign to avoid alienating Conservative voters.

Flanked by Mr Blair and the shadow Chancellor, Gordon

Brown, Mr Howarth, who was recently selected for the safe Labour seat of Newport East, will tell disillusioned Tories that He announced that he had the Conservatives will become more extreme if they win the

The Prime Minister's attack on sleaze came after clear signs of disarray in the Conservative camp over how to handle the MPs who refused to quit. The day began with a party grandee. Dame Jill Knight, signalling that the Tory leadership had givon up its hopes of dumping the MPs after a weekend of pres-

sure to get them to go gracefully. The deputy Labour leader, John Prescott, said that the Tories were "a party that can't be led with a leader that can't

Mr Major faces further trouble next Thursday when he goes to Scotland, where his party chairman, Sir Michael Hirst, has resigned over allegations about his private life. Labour will be launching its own manifesto on "One Nation" themes, including a promise to underpin fam-ily life, giving employees the right to annual holidays, parental leave and a maximum working week of 48 hours.

Firemen removed the rocks

The scouts were asleep in

their tents when the disaster

village scout hut in Cleobury

Mortimor and given chocolate

lect them during the night. Some scouts and their lead-

using slings and a JCB. Tony Mullard, who was in charge of

rocks to become unstable."

## Tratcher lined up to be Blair's ambassador in Washington

**EXCLUSIVE** 

by Jojo Moyes

lony Blair will appoint Baroness Thatcher to the post of Washington ambassador in return for her endorsing Labour shortly before 1 May, The Independent can reveal. Lady Thatcher has already

told friends that she admires Mr Blair's disciplined determination. She was reported in the Daily Mail last September saying: "He knows exactly what he wants and how to go about achieving it." Mr Blair, for his part, has put

his respect for Lady Thatcher's eadership qualities on record. He wants to create a new pol-ities, in which talented and experienced people of all views are welcomed into government, egardiess of their views.

Labour advisers emphasise that Washington is deemed the perfect post, because the former Tory prime minister cuts a for-midable figure in American political circles.

She is regarded almost reverentially by the Capitol Hill élite, as well as academic and

ousiness folk across the US. The understanding has been brokered by one of the Washington embassy's former rising stars, Jonathan Powell, who eft the diplomatic service to become an aide to Mr Blair. Mr Powell is a younger brother of Sir Charles Powell, Lady Thatcher's former foreign-

oolicy adviser. The growing bond between the Blair and Thatcher camps has been aided by the close friendhip between Carla, Sir Charles's Italian wife, and Peter Mandelson, Mr Blair's Machiavellian aide: the pair are often seen on each other's arms at soirces.

Lady Thatcher will take over from Sir John Kerr, who, it was announced in February, will return to London later this year to head the Diplomatic Service. A decision on the Washington



verentially on Capitol Hill

ambassadorship, the most sought-after Foreign Office posting, was to be delayed un-til after the election. But sources say that the US administration has been sounded out unofficially, and that President Clinton is more than happy" with the appointment.

If the posting is confirmed Lady Thatcher will enjoy the comforts of a magnificent Lutyens residence on Massachusetts Avenue, described as the "second-nicest house in Washington", with its white colonnade, footmen, white and gold Minton china decorated with the Royal cypher, and up to £14m a year running costs.

Sir Denis Thatcher has alread made one "reconnaissance" trip to scout out which of Washing ton's exclusive country clubs will become his golfing venue. He will find President Clinton a keen partner on the greens. At an auction in aid of his daughter's school last year there was fierce bidding for the President's offer of 18 holes with himself at the Army-Navy Country Club.

As one source close to Mr Blair put it last night: "Who cares what she did to Britain? What matters now is whether she'll help us win Basildon."

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'The rocks fell without warning' shortly before 1am yesterday.

Two scout leaders were crushed to death yesterday when 10 tons of rocks collapsed on them while they sat talking round a camp fire. Another scout leader, Marcus Hill, 25, was sitting against a rock face on the opposite side of the camp fire and escaped unburt.

The scout leaders had lit the Russia's tax D-day ontire beneath an overhanging Today is the deadline for Rus-!5ft-high sandstone rock outsians to hand in their personal crop to celebrate the last night of their three-day Easter camp income tax returns, an opportunity to discover if the govat Cider Hill Farm, Cleobury ernment has made any progress Mortimor, Shropshire, Only two hours before the with a massive compaign to bring an end to an epidemic of tax-dodging. Page 11

tragedy occurred, all 12 seouts from KD 11 troop in Kidderminster had been sitting round the fire, enjoying a sing song. But at 11pm three of the scout leaders took the children, aged 12 to 15, back to their tents in a meadow 150m away. The boys were then given bot chocolate and went to sleep. Kinshasa life goes on with an air Two of the leaders stayed by of surreal normality. Page 12 the fire and Marcus joined

ing and having a can of beer, said Supt Peter Picken of West Mercia police. "The incident has all the hallmarks of a tragic

The scout group had stayed regularly at the farm for more than a decade and always built

rock which weighed more than

Marcus Hill had helped to against the rock face. the fire talking and without

their camp fire under the rocky outerop to avoid damaging the farmer's field. It is thought that the heat from the fire, combined with the cold night air, may have caused the rockfull. The two scout leaders who died were buried beneath one

supervise the scouts' bedtime and then returned to join Stu-art Perkins and David Weaver by the fire. They were sitting on the floor in the most comfortable places around the fire, so he squatted opposite them. We were actually sat round

us," said Mr Hill who was treated in hospital for shock. "There was no warning whatsoever. "We were talking about television, cars, life in general and the rocks just fell on top of

They both disappeared from view when the rocks fell. I was not touched by the rocks." warning the rocks just fell on

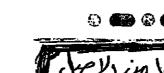


years, clawed at the rocks to rescue his friends. All three had joined the scout troop as cubs when they were eight. He said: "I couldn't move the rocks. I just crawled over the top of the rocks which were piled up about three-feet high."

Mr Hill ran almost half a mile

turned to pack up camp yesterday. They were due to have tackled an assault course and gone swimming. pack's scout leader for two Mr Hill's girlfriend, Sandra Oliver, was among the five scout leaders in charge of the children at the camp.

Group scout leader Martin lads who died were very dedicated scouts. They had come up from the cubs and they lived and breathed scouting. They just



## significant shorts

## The perfect bank holiday warm, sunny and empty

Britain has just had its warmest and sunniest Easter since 1989, with temperatures rising to 16-17C away from sea breezes, but a record 1.5 million people missed it by leaving the country.

Airports in the United Kingdom handled about 900,000 passengers over the holiday period. Gatwick reported an "incredibly busy" time, with 294,000 passengers in the main four days. 17 per cent up on last year, and Heathrow had 1.2 million from last Wednesday to today – 42,000 more than last year.

The Channel Tunnel was being used to the limit of the restricted capacity allowed since last year's fire. Le Shuttle said it carried 110,000 car passengers on its trains, nearly 15 per cent more than

110,000 car passengers on its trains, nearly 15 per cent more than last Easter. Eurostar said 120,000-140,000 people used its trains between London and Paris or Brussels, close to its maximum. Not

to be beaten, the main cross-Channel ferry operators also reported near-capacity bookings.

Before the evening traffic build-up, AA Roadwatch said some of the busiest roads were around Whipsnade zoo park in Bedfordshire, where a baby white rhinoceros the size of a labrador dog but "with dinner-plate feet and enormous ears" was adding to the attractions.

#### Two die at railway blackspot

Two teenagers died after being hit by a passenger train at a notorious blackspot for rail vandals in Leeds. One was killed instantly and the other was declared dead at hospital soon after they were struck by the Middlesbrough-to-Manchester airport train travelling at around 70mph on Sunday night.

The youths, 15 and 17, were found near the main trans-Pennine line. A Pailtrack probaggious and destanday that a third wouth

line. A Railtrack spokeswoman said yesterday that a third youth who was present ran away but was later traced and was being questioned by police. She said the accident scene, near a road bridge over the two rail lines, was known as a blackspot for trespassing and vandalism. Railtrack and British Transport Police launched an immediate inquiry.

#### **Tower miners open their doors**

Tower Colliery, Britain's only worker-owned pit and Wales's only surviving deep mine, is opening a window on mining history with a visitor centre, inaugurated vesterday in the shadow of the pit's

winding gear in the Lee of Rhigus Mountain near Aberdare. The colliery has been

producing coal for more than a century and was saved from closure by British Coal in 1994 after the 240 miners each chipped in £8,000 to buy it. It has been run at a profit for the last two years. Tyrone O'Sullivan (far left

of picture), former secretary of the Colliery's National Union of Mineworkers' dge and now a director of the pit co-op believes the saga of Tower's survival has essons for other enterprises struggling to stay afloat. Community support was vital to us. Our new visitors' centre underlines this and is a lasting tribute to those who

The centre uses videos photographs, historic documents and press cuttings to describe the pit's fight for survival. Tony Heath

## Diving trio suffer bends

Three British divers were yesterday said to be "doing well" at a special medical unit in Belgium after getting into difficulties off the

The trio, all members of a diving club in Folkestone, were thought to be suffering from "the bends" when they surfaced, a Dover coastguard said. He said that a helicopter had first planned to take the three men to a decompression unit at Portsmouth, Hampshire, but it was unable to land because of fog. The next nearest unit was in Ostend.

## Scilly Isles clean-up

Environmental experts have expressed confidence that oil washed ashore from the Antiguan-registered cargo ship Cita, which went aground off the Scilly Isles in gales last week, would cause little coastal damage.

In an operation to clean a beach at Porth Hellick bay, a site of special scientific interest on St Mary's, oiled sand will be removed by mechanical diggers, cleaned and returned to the beach, and rocks will be washed by local authority workmen and Marine Control Pollution Unit personnel. The tug Salvage Chief continued pumping around 90 tonnes of fuel oil from the wrecked vessel.

## Fatal end to stag party

Police were yesterday investigating the death of a best man who fell from a mini-bus returning from a stag party at the weekend. Police said the bus was travelling at about 15mph when the man jumped or fell as the group he was with was returning to Doncaster from York. The 25-year-old suffered serious head injuries and died later in Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

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## <u>people</u>



## Judgement day for the brave news face of Channel Five

rirsty Young, the young Scotswoman catapulted into anchoring Channel 5 News amidst much hype, got an early chance to prove she's no dumb blonde last night by cross-examining on camera the man most likely to be Prime Minister on 2 May.

As she probed Tony Blair in a five set-piece interview, those of us on the receiving end of all the surrounding puff and publicity were granted a swift opportunity to judge whether she is as smart and cool under pressure as her new bosses boast or "Selina Scott without the brains", as her harshest critics have helped us," Mr O'Sullivan

The Blair interview was a prenews programme generated some last free-to-air television network will have to work hard on the publicity front if it is to weave itself into the fabric of British life in the next few

weeks and months. Only one of its first night offerings

A Catholic priest in Liverpool who yesterday conducted an Easter

Father Arthur Fitzgerald, of St

Michael's church in Liverpool, was

arrested inside a British Aerospace

demonstrate against human rights

The factory constructs Hawk

factory at Warton in Lancashire after

was arrested for his trouble.

he held an Easter liturgy with

parishioners and refugees to

trainer jets which are sold to

Indonesia where, human rights

activists maintain, they are used

against the people in East Timor.

At dawn, a party of eight protesters including Fr Fitzgerald

the fence at the base to protest.

held a peaceful prayer service

outside the gates

formed a human stepladder to climb

The demonstration marked the

where 50 other demonstrators later

Four East Timor refugees joined

the demonstrators, singing songs,

unfurling banners and giving out

Easter eggs to BAe's security

Fr Fitzgerald and the eight

protesters were arrested after the

security guards asked them to leave,

escorted them to the perimeter fence

and handed them over to the police.

Before his arrest Fr Fitzgerald

start of a day of action at the base.

abuses in Indonesia.

service with a human rights message

Spice Girls - attracted over 2 million - Channel 4, a s viewers on Sunday night, according to unofficial overnight figures which

emerged yesterday.

The opening episode of its fivenight-a-week soap Family Affairs was watched by just 1.5 million people - less than a tenth of the number which tunes into EastEnders or Coronation Street. The same modest number bothered to watch Beyond Fear, a drama about the Stephanie Slater kidnapping.

Even fewer - around 1 million according to the early estimates - tuned into the debut edition of The Jack Docherty Show, which starred the Spice Girls (again) and ageing hearthrob Roger Moore. Earlier in the dictable ploy to ensure that the first evening, the opening episode of full edition of Channel 5's flagship medical spoof Hospital! also drew around 1 million.

tives were as determindedly upbeat as their station's misery-free soap yesterday, claiming an early victory in the ratings war over their closest rivals Channel 4.

Pointing out that its prime-time a curtain-raising show featuring a share of total audience was 5.8 per specially commissioned song by the cent compared with 4.7 per cent for

said: "British Aerospace Hawk jets are being used by the Indonesian

regime to support attacks in East

death has to stop.'

Timor and West Papua. This trade in

BAe would not comment on the

claims by protesters but confirmed

the protest had gone ahead and said

their response to any demonstration

"is as always to respect any lawful protest but to take positive action in

the event that any illegal acts are

The protesters were held for

near Blackpool, where they were

trespass, according to Lancashire

police. Fr Fitzgerald and three other

British nationals, none of whom were

named by the police, were released

on bail to appear before magistrates

were also due to appear in the court

Last July, four women, arrested at the base, were acquitted by a crown court jury in Liverpool of causing

The East Timor refugees were

remanded in police custody and

today, a police spokesman sald.

criminal damage to a Hawk jet

estimated at £10m, after they

successfully pleaded they were

entitled to use reasonable force in

trying to prevent of a crime against

trying to prevent a. \_\_\_\_ the people of East Timor. Matthew Brace

later charged with civil aviation

questioning at Lytham police station,

directed against our sites'

Turbulent day for priest

in human rights protest

new station said "Affective very hap-by with the figures especially as it was such a beautiful suriny bank holiday." It is a very good result considering we are aiming for a 5 per cent overall share by the end of the year."

The figures are certainly broadly in line with the modest forecasts Channel 5 wisely issued on the eve of its first transmission. Normally new networks can count upon a high curiosity factor playing in their favour, but launching on Easter Sunday was

always going to be a disadvantage. The number of calls flooding into Channel 5's special helpline—3.5 million in the last fortnight - suggest that the station has aroused the public's interest and awareness. Most inquiries have been about reception problems or requests for procent about re-tuning

Since coming on air, a fresh complaint has been about the 5 logo which is superimposed permanently on the top left-hand comer of the television screen - seen by the station's marketing team as a smart piece of branding. Rob Brown

Sailor admits

he started

mutiny in war

A former Royal navy sailor

has confessed that he was responsible for staging a

how he and his fellow sea-

sweeper twice attempted to

cowardice and negligence

were endangering the lives

Mr Lawton claims he and

men on board a mine-

drown an officer whose

three others decided to

push him overboard. Mr

the age of 17, in 1942.

tried to kill the first lieu-

tenant of HMS Rosario.

Lawton, who lives in Hull,

volunteered for the Navy at

while minesweeping in the

Adriatic. "I still have night-

time to tell the truth," he

ficer used to hide when

ed to act after shrapnel from an exploding mine

killed a sailor. Mr Lawton

makes his confession on

pursuing the matter.

the BBC 2 series, The Call

of the Sea on Saturday. The MoD said it would not be

there were mines around.

He and three others decid-

mares today but I felt it was

said. Mr Lawton said the of-

He recalls the moment he

lan Lawton, 72, described

mutiny in 1944.

of the crew.

## briefing

#### **ECONOMY**

### Britain better off in EU, business leaders say

Most firms want Britain to remain in the European Union although one in four believes the economy would benefit from leaving, a new survey showed today.

leaving, a new survey showed today.

More than two out of three businesses polled said the UK.
economy would benefit from staying in the EU.
The survey of 553 organisations by Reed Personnel Services showed more support for leaving the EU in the South-west, while firms in the Midlands were most in favour of staying in. Larger firms were more likely to argue in favour of remaining in Europe.

Labour's trade and industry spokeswoman Margaret Beckett said. "This survey is overwhelming suidence that the business."

said: "This survey is overwheiming evidence that the business community recognises the need for Britain to play a constructive role in Europe and recognises also the danger to prosperity and jobs if we were to leave the EU. It thus shows the dangers to which

Tory divisions on Europe expose Britain, risking 3.5 million jobs."
The survey also found that senior managers were keener on the staying in Europe than lower ranks, with only 17 per cent of them wanting the UK to leave the EU, compared to 24 per cent of middle managers and 25 per cent of support staff.

There were also differences between business sectors, with 76 per cent of manufacturing businesses thinking the UK should stay in and 19 per cent that it should leave, compared to 60 per cent of distribution and wholesale organisations believing the UK should stay and 31 per cent that it should get out. A quarter of service and retail business and 24 per cent of public sector organisations thought leaving the EU would be better for the UK, along with 17 per cent of charities.

#### HEALTH

## Why breast is best

Children fed on mothers' milk have a ten-point IQ headstart over bottle-fed babies, according to a psychiatric survey today. Those who missed out are not only les

bright than they would have been, they are quieter, more withdrawn and make fewer friends at school, the research indicates. They also appear to be at higher risk of developing schizophrenia in later life. Consultant psychiatrist Dr Robin McCreadie, of the

Crichton Royal Hospital, Dumfries, who led the research as part of an investigation into the causes of schizophrenia, said: "Mothers' milk contains an essential constituent, missing from cows' milk, for proper brain development of babies. Breast-fed babies are nearly ten IQ points brighter than those raised on cows' milk.
"The fatty acid [docosahexa-

enoic acid, known as DHA] in mothers' milk is vital for proper development of the brain and to give it protection from schizophrenia. When all mothers breast-fed their babies, schizophrenia was virtually unknown in Britain. But with the advent of bottle feeding - early last century - the disease gained a foothold."

His survey, published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, shows that seven out of ten schizophrenia patients were not breast-fed.

#### **BUSINESS**

### rewer tirms going bust

The number of business failures in Britain fell by nearly 10 per cent in the first three months of the year, providing further evidence of the increasing strength of the economy.

During the first quarter, the total number of failures, including

companies, partnerships and sole traders, amounted to 10.329 -1.101 fewer than in the first three months of last year, according to

business information company Dan & Bradstreet.

The fall was caused mainly by a sharp drop in the proportion of larger companies going into liquidation, it said. The number of companies going into liquidation fell from 5,237 in the first quarter of last year to 4,517 in the first three months of this year, while the number of bankruptcies of smaller businesses fell by

6.1 per cent during the same period.
Senior analyst Philip Mellor said: "The latest figures are most encouraging after an upturn in the business failure rate during the last quarter of last year. We had feared that an increase in pany liquidations might bring down a host of smaller firm bankruptcies in their wake. This has not happened yet, but with the business climate being so competitive, it remains to be seen if the decline in business failures continues throughout the year."

#### **CHILD CARE**

#### **Mental scars for traffic victims**

Children commonly suffer post-traumatic stress disorder after being invelved in a road traffic accident, a new study has found.
Researchers called urgently for health care staff to recognise
and treat the potential psychological consequences for children
and adolescents as well as ministering to their physical injuries.

Writing in the British Journal of Psychiatry the researchers looks at 57 injured children who had been brought into five Glasgow hospitals between April and August 1995. Four months on parents reported that nearly half the children suffered from persistent mood disturbances – largely tantrums and mood swings but also sadness and withdrawal. Nearly half still suffered from mild, moderate or severe from post traumatic stress disorder, 17 per cent from traffic-related fears and more than a quarter still felt wary on the roads. Those who had been most distressed at the time of the accident were most likely to develop post-traumatic stress

The researchers said that it was important for hospital staff to recognise the danger of post-traumatic reaction and they said that where necessary specialist mental health advice should be offered



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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# Freedom dawns again for a small corner of England



Arthur Hill lives in Rutland, He is proud to be a Rutlander. Indeed, in his 89 years he has only ever travelled as far from it as

Under a special feature on Mr Hill, one of the county's "truly grand old characters", the Rutland Times says he will greet independence "with a pride and patriotism only born Rutlanders can truly feel".

communities of cities across the rest of the country, Mr Hill's passion for his home - and his newspaper's passion for Mr identity".

Hill - might seem somewhat curious. But as 1 April returns Rutland to county status, many of its citizens are bringing a similar patriotism for this tiny sec-

18-by-15 mile county was abolished and it became part of Leicestershire. Many Rutlanders continued to refer to it as a county, even using their old postcode. Their feelings were such that even an encyclopaedic To the multicultural, shifting reference to Rutland notes: "There is local indignation whenever it is suggested that Rutland should lose its separate

tor of the Midlands to the fore. Twenty-three years ago the

Now, after fierce lobbying by Rutland's council, it again becomes a county today - an event that will be commemorated with a huge display of fire-works, a ball, and no small rejoicing among many of the county's inhabitants, not least traders. There is a commemorative magazine, poster, car sticker, polo shirt, first-day cov-

memorative Independent mortgage. Sylvia Darby, proprietor of the Lord Nelson's House Hotel in Oakham, says the change is not just symbolic. "We real-

er, egg cup and even a com-

Rutland

it's very much Rutland for the Rutlanders - but the tradespeople particularly feel it may bring more business in."

Locals were hoping the Prince of Wales would attend the ceremony, as he rides with a local hunt, the Quorn, but she and her family would be attending a celebratory ball re-gardless. "We'll be eating off commemorative plates, and afterwards we get to take them home. Suitably washed, I might

The sense of satisfaction in

change, Mrs Darby said.
"They never changed their

On its own: Rutland Water and its environs, one of the main features of the county, which is now free of the Leicestershire yoke

postcode, they would never allow the signs on entering to be taken down either, and they never accepted being part of Leicestershire."

But not everyone is happy about the change. County status, it appears, comes at a price. and many feel the area is simply too small to support itself. The county will have to "buy in" many services from nieghbouring counties, and, days before independence, many negotiations had not been completed,

map. When we first came here local people had fought "tooth including social services, high-tourism was a bit of a dirty word and nail" for the boundary ways and archive services. A council spokesman said that in some cases neighbouring counties wanted to tie Rutland to 10year contracts, or had withheld

contracts altogether. Jacqui Morrissey, a housewife from Market Overton, said the be able to afford its independence". Council tax was going up at an alarming rate, even with transitional relief, and many people believed services were going to go down. "We simply don't have enough industry. How are they going to pay for university grants?

They're already cutting back on education. Policing is already at a stretch and public transport is there's such a problem with unalmost non-existent. Rutland is

just too small on its own." She believed that many people who had been pro-independence would change their minds when they discovered its true cost. "I take several old ladies to sewing classes every week and they're worned. Their pensions aren't going to cover it." Her daughter Caroline, 22, said Plymouth, where she was at university, felt like a cosmopolitan paradise in comparison. If you were young in

Rutland, there were organised

Photograph: Keith Dobney groups like the Venture Scouts, but that was it. "That's why

der-age drinking." Mrs Morrissey, who would not be attending the fireworks. believed the decision to become independent again had been

"purely political". It was pushed and pushed. We were always given the good

Rutlanders, she said, thought that by regaining their inde-pendence they would somehow get back the Rutland of 30 years ago. "They think they light

## Rescuers grieve as Moby dies on sands at Airth

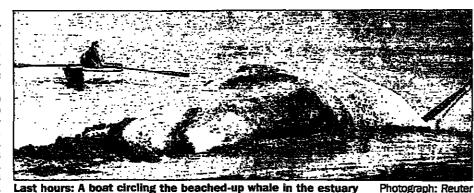
Colin Blackstock

Easter Monday is the busiest day of the year for the Deep Sea World aquarium in Fife. Scotland and this year it was also one of the saddest.

The staff at the aquarium have battled to save Moby, a 40% sperm whale from beaching itself for the past two weeks. but vesterday lost the war. Moby, who was first spotted in the Firth of Forth 13 days ago. died after becoming beached on mudflats at Airth in the estuary.

Rescuers had tried to redirect Moby eastwards, out of the esmary, but time and again the whale returned to swim inland. Then finally, at midday yesterday. Moby died one hour after becoming trapped in shallow water as the tide went out.

Alex Kilgour, a spokesman for Deep Sea World aquarium, which was co-ordinating the rescue attempts, said: "Moby died very quickly. We were dreading a long, drawn-out death that could have gone on for six to 12 hours, but he died within an hour, which was a blessing in disguise.



"We are all extremely sad at

Deep Sea World. We tried our utmost as a group of human beings to help Moby, but at the end of the day it wasn't

Doctor Keith Todd, an expert from the aquarium who had spent the last 12 days trying to help the whale, comforted Moby as he died. Rescuers had spent two weeks using boats and divers to try and coax Moby out of the estuary.

Wildlife experts said that Moby probably took a wrong turn on an annual migration

from the Arctic to the Azones and came down the east coast of Scotland instead of the west on his way to the Atlantic.

When Moby got into the Forth he tried to go west," said Mr Kilgour, "It seems his sonar kept telling him to go west but he couldn't, and he ended up becoming beached."

Those involved in the rescue attempts dismiss any ideas that the whale was on a suicide mission. Dr John Goold of the School of Ocean Sciences, University of Wales. Bangor, said: how we can in "I don't think he was trying to ods." he said.

kill himself. If he was, he could have beached a lot sooner The public support for Moby and the attempt to save him as-

tonished everyone involved. We were taken aback by the public support," said Mr Kilgour. "We didn't realise that it would create such an interest but it shows that the public want to see humans helping animals.

"The most important thing we can do now is sit down and talk about what to do the next time this happens, and learn how we can improve our meth-

## Hunt for last BR train departing narrows down to choice of three

Simon Reeve

Even as the final British Rail passenger trains lett their platforms last night. BR's infamous timetables - the bane of every traveller - were causing problems for their customers. After almost 50 years of public ownership, groups of excited enthusiasts were left wondering which of three trains really was

the last train departing.

The final BR passenger train to actually reach its destination should be the 9.30 overnight sleeper service from London Euston, which is due to arrive at 10.25 this morning in Fort

William. However, as any BR passenger knows, leaving one station is no guarantee of swift arrival

sleeper from Edinburgh to Euston via Glasgow, which was staking its claim as the very last

BR train. Most of those wanting to celebrate the end of BR by travelling on the "final" trains plumped for two ScotRail expresses travelling in opposite directions between Glasgow and Edinburgh, which left just be-fore midnight last night, loaded with trainspotters.

Perhaps final celebrations should have waited until blearyeved passengers disembark from the sleeper service. But both the Glasgow and Edinhurgh trains were due to arrive early this morning to the sound of music and popping champagne corks as yet another unloved public company with an

Then there was the 23.55 image problem steps aside for the private sector.

The confusion over the last train failed to affect celebrations at Waverley station in Edinburgh this morning. Passengers from Glasgow were met by John Bowden, 64, the only rail employee who started his working life before nationalisation.

The event sees the end of the 25th train company, the last to enter private ownership. It is unlikely that British Rail, one of the most ridiculed companies in the land, will be missed.

Free whisky was drunk on the ScotRail expresses as documents were prepared, handing the company over to National Express, a firm better known for ses and coaches. Despite a frantic 14 months,

during which the entire pas-

senger network has been sold off, the private sector may not retain control for long if Labour wins the general election, according to Keith Bill, national secretary of the pressure group Save Our Railways. He predicts the majority share of Railtrack and most of the 25 rail train franchises will be back in public ownership within seven years

if the opposition takes power. "Both Labour and Liberal Democrats have reiterated in the last 48 hours that they will take back Railtrack even though Labour will make it clear that they cannot afford to do this in the first five years of a Labour government," Mr Bill

"But bringing back Railtrack into the public sector remains Labour's long-term objective."

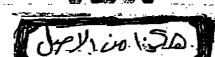


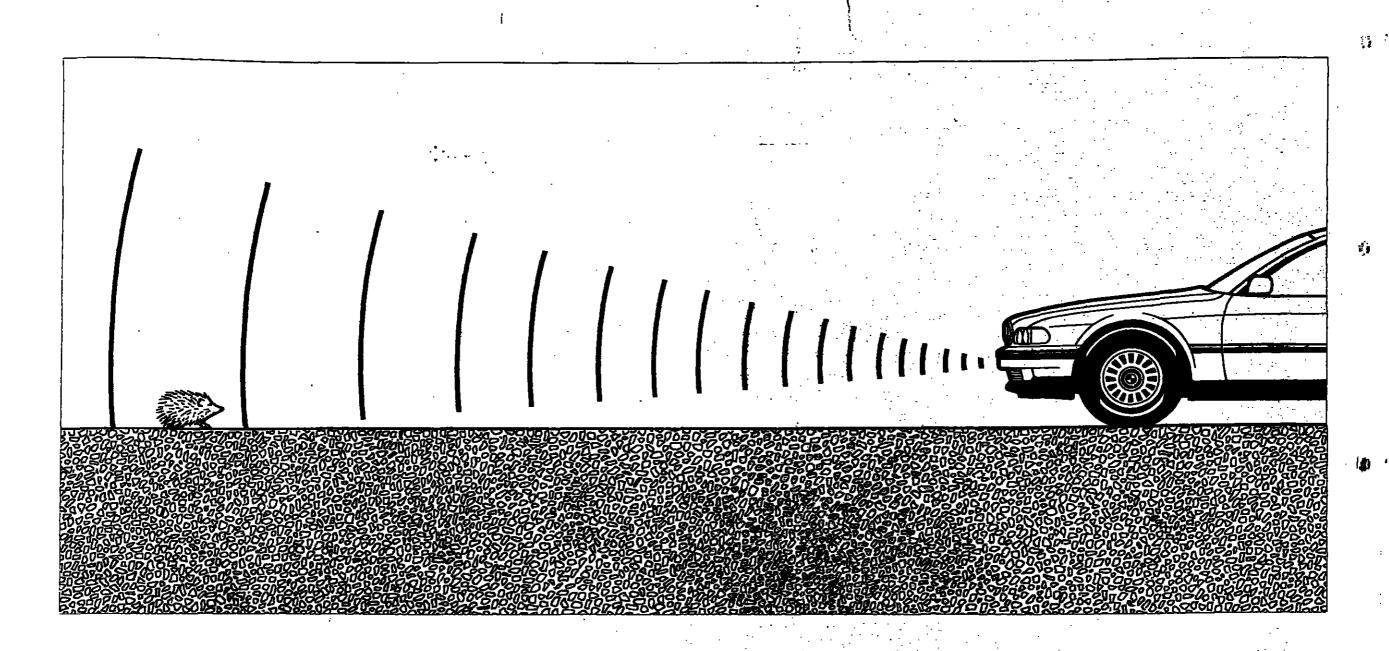
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# Hanratty case police want to track killer

Kim Sengupta

Detectives whose investigation cleared James Harratty of the A6 murder are unhappy that a new inquiry has not been launched to track down the launched to track down the killer, say police sources. The Scotland Yard team, un-

der Det Supt Roger Matthews, which concluded Hanratty had been unjustly executed also recommended that a review should be made of the evi-

dence against other suspects.

Not only has Michael

Howard the Home Secretary, unloaded the alleged miscar-riage of justice on to the new Criminal Cases Review Com-Criminal Cases Review Commission, but the Home office
has given no indication whether
a new inquiry would be held, despite receiving the Matthews report eight months ago.

The CCRC begins to look at
possible miscarriages of justice

this week. But detectives in the Matthews inquiry have no idea Photograph: Nicola Kurtz | what will happen to their call for Hanratty, who was 25, concen-

month re-investigation decided that Hanratty, a petty burglar, Storrie, who was paralysed.

After examining the evidence present at the time the team was of the opinion that Hanratty should not have been charged. Instead, Mr Matthews's team and concluded the man who carned out the attack on 22 August 1961 at Deadman's Hill, Bed-Brdshire, was probably hired to break up the illicit liaison.

His report is believed to recommend that a new inquiry should in particular examine ev-idence regarding Peter Alphon, a salesman who was the origi-

But the officers turned their attention from Alphon to Hanratty after a tip-off from William Nudds, an informer and habitual liar. The prosecution of

a new investigation. The 18- trated on the theory that a lone gunman had carried out a random attack after finding the couple in their car in a comfield.

Hanralty was hanged in April 1962. Doubts about the conviction played a big part in MPs voting to abolish capital punishment in 1965.

Two years later Alphon confessed in Paris to the rape and murder, but later retracted, a pattern he was to repeat over the years. A man Alphon claimed had set up the attack to deter Gregsten from seeing Ms Storric was never interviewed by police. Yesterday a Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We were asked to prepare a report by the Home Office and we have presented them with it. We cannot discuss the content of the report; it is strictly confidential."

A Home Office spokes-woman said: "The files have been sent to the Criminal Cases Review Commission ... We cannot comment on the content of the Matthews report."

## oman: Brooklands Museum in Surrey celebrating the bicycle yesterday with the Annual Cycle Festival March highlights loyalist divisions

Ireland correspondent

The sharp divisions within Ulster loyalism were publicly encapsulated yesterday when the new marching season's first disputed parade passed off without serious incident in south Belfast.

A small parade of the Apprentice Boys of Derry marched towards the Catholic section of the Ormeau road but then, as promised, veered away from a line of Royal Ulster Constabu- catcalls from loyalist protesters lary Land Rovers and were was Yellow bastards. Among taken on their way by coach.

Their conduct was applauded by police, who were relieved that the first potential flashpoint of the season had been successfully negotiated, but heckled by people accusing them of cowardice in the face of nationalist opposition.

Although only a small number of marchers and a few dissidents were involved, their comments summed up the running debate taking place in loyalist circles. One tendency believes that the right to march should take precedence over all clse, while the other feels the avoidance of conflict should

have priority. Tommy Cheevers of the Apprentice Boys said they had taken their decision to give Northern Ireland a breathing space because the country could not afford a repeat of last year's

He said most of the protesters were members of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, adding: "There are always those in our society, unfortunately, who are just bigots and can't see anything. They only have small lives to live, but I have to say the majority of

"We're not prepared to bring confrontation on to our own streets. We have proved we are tolerant people who are pre-pared to compromise. We have taken all the tension out of the air - people do not want another situation like last July."

Among the more repeatable the dissenters was Pauline Gilmore, whose boyfriend was shot dead by the IRA 16 years ago. She and the others felt the marchers should have made some gesture before turning away: "People feel disgusted, they feel betrayed, they don't understand why there is no form of protest at all."

Meanwhile, debate continued on the significance of remarks by Labour's Mo Mowlam, who at the weekend suggested that in the event of an immediate IRA ceasefire Sinn Fein could enter multi-party talks in Belfast. by the summer.
Sources close to Tony Blair,

the Labour leader, insisted that there was no chance of Labour sanctioning any meeting with Sinn Fein. However, Ms Mowlam's comments have created speculation that Labour in government might show more

flexibility than the Conservatives.
Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis said he was worried by her remarks, while Martin McGuinness of Sinn-Fein said he regarded the comments as ank pic reserves the right not to open an account. Credit subject to status. Call 0800 180 180 for full written details. Midland variable interest rate for overdrafts up to £3000 is 1.05% per month (13.3% EAR).

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## DAILY POEM

Song to A.A.

by Emily Bronte

This shall be thy bullaby Rocking on the stormy sea, Though it roar in thunder wild Sleep - stilly sleep - my dark-haired child

When our shuddering boat was crossing Eldemo lake so rudely tossing, Then 'twas first my nursling smiled; Sleep - softly sleep - my fairbrowed child.

Waves above thy cradle break, Fourty tears are on the cheek, Vet the ocean's self grows mild When it bears my slumbering child.

"Elderno" was a place in Gondal, the imaginary world created by the Brontë siblings in 1834 at the parsonage in Hawarth. The Everyman's Poetry selection of verse by Emily, Charlotte, Anne and Patrick Branwell Bronte is edited by Pamela Norris (Everyman/J-M Dent. £2). The identity of A.A. is unknown.

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## Don't try to bully me, says Blunkett

**Education Editor** 

Labour will not tolerate threats of bullying from teachers' unions or anyone else. David Blunkett, the Labour education spokesman, told the profession's biggest union yesterday. Mr Blunkett won a standing

ovation from more than half his audience at the National Union of Teachers' annual conference in Harrogate, and silence from the rest, after a fighting speech in which he attacked union

Delegates voted at the weekend to take on a Labour govemment over class size, grammar schools and league tables. And they agreed to strike if a Labour government failed to reduce class sizes for all pupils.

Mr Blunkett said: "We won't tolerate division or bullying or threats, not simply from those who attend union conferences but from anyone who has a vested interest in any part of our by the system far too easily. country. However important they think they are, they will not stand in the way of myself and my colleagues radically chang-ing the education system."

Outside the conference, Mr. Blunkett said teachers should not strike over government policies whether on grammar

schools, testing or inspection.
"I don't think withdrawing vour labour and leaving children without a teacher assists in lifting standards or raising the esteem of teachers. As ever. withdrawal of labour should he a last resort."

He made it clear that he did not accept plans expected to be revealed in the Conservative manifesto today to ban teachers'

gates, but he was heard with barely a murmur as he backed traditional teaching methods, attacked teacher militancy and argued that low standards were the result of low expectations as well as economic disadvantage.

He was warmly applauded when he said that Labour would abolish the Government's nursery voucher scheme within one school term and would accept that class size mattered.

Labour's pledge to reduce class sizes for 5- to 7-year-olds, he suggested, was the start of a process under which class sizes for older pupils might also be reduced. He said that they could trust him better than anyone to raise standards.

<sup>2</sup>I had to go to evening classes for six years to get A levels get into university.

"I taught in the heart of the South Yorkshire coal field where youngsters were bright, able and capable but written off

'When my own children went into an inner-city comprehensive with very low academic standards, I determined to liberate the children we represent from past dogmas and fights about the élite succeeding and the rest being written off."

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said they looked forward with optimism to a Labour government but warned that his members would be prenared to take industrial action if the needs of children and their teachers were not being met.

tary of State for Education, told BBC Radio 4's World At One. "If ... Labour were elected ... they would have to reap what they have sown over the years as far Mr Blunkett had been ex- as education is concerned. What pected to receive a rough ride we heard at the NUT is the voice from the most militant dele- of the Labour Party."



A rough ride from militants that never came to pass: David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, addressing the NUT in Harrogate yesterday Photograph: John Houlihan/Guzelian

bbut <del>dib</del>ut

Labour wants to ban calculators for children under the age of eight. David Blunkett said yes-

He said a new numeracy Gillian Shephard, the Secretaskforce to be set up under Professor David Reynolds, of Newcastle upon Tyne University, would make a final children to be introduced to calculators.

> In comments which echoed many concerns usually voiced by

traditionalists, he said: "Mental arithmetic is a key skill which children must learn. They must also understand the basis on which the calculations are being made.

\*Calculators should not be introduced until later in primary schools than is often the case at present. So that once the foundations of mental arithmetic decision about the right age for are already in place, they can master how to use them more

"Numerate pupils must know how to use calculators sensibly cy targets for 11-year-olds. ry pick the best methods and class maths teaching involving curriculum, she added.

and must be able to make a de- Three-quarters would be excision about when to use a calculator. We must ensure that no child is totally reliant on a calculator.

Children needed to learn their tables by heart and bow to add and subtract quickly with-Most countries introduce cal-

culators into schools at a later stage than Britain.

pected to achieve the expected standard within five years and 90 per cent by the year 2007. The present figure is 55

In the Third International Maths and Science Study published last year, British 13-yearolds did worse in maths than pupils from about half the 40 countries which took part.

Mr Blunkett said: "Whilst we

tailor them to fit our culture, our question and answer sessions system and what parents, teachers and pupils find works best. The taskforce will be reviewing

all the research evidence. "We must learn from Taiwan and the Pacific Rim countries and their success in teaching children the habits of mind which can lead to future educational success."

He had been impressed, he said, by a project in the London Mr Blunkett said Labour cannot import practice whole-would introduce new numera- sale from abroad, we must cher-genham in which there is whole-targets for all stages of the

with the teacher.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education said: "Labour can't add up. David Blunkett has said he intends to set up a numeracy taskforce so he has obviously failed to count the 25 literacy and numeracy centres we have established throughout the country

to spread best practice." The Prime Minister had said

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## De Gruchy attacks rival leader over direct action

Education Correspondent

A teaching union leader yesterday condemned the president of a rival union who withdrew her daughter from school during national tests as a "disgrace to her profession".

Nigel de Gruchy, general

secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/ Union of Women Teachers, launched his attack after Christine Blower, of the National Union of Teachers, admitted letting ber 11-year-old daughter stay at home for three days last year to stop her sitting the compulsory tests in English, maths and science.

Addressing the NUT con-ference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, at the weekend, Ms Blower told delegates that they, too, should take direct action to oppose national testing, school inspection and large classes.
The NUT strongly opposed

the introduction of the tests for 7-, 11- and 14-year-olds. Mr De Gruchy, speaking before the opening of the NASUWT's an-



At odds: Clash between NASUWT's Nigel de Gruchy (left) and NUT's Christine Blower exposes a divided profes

Blower of disgracing the pro-fession "by organising her own child to truant". He said: "You can't have your cake and eat it. You can't argue for a state education system and then in effect argue that every parent has the right to do whatever they like."
The move set a "very dan-

gerous precedent" he added. "If

mouth, Dorset, accused Ms every time parents disagreed, they retained the right to withdraw their child, there would be

> Ms Blower, 45, of Hammersmith, west London, who teaches children with behavioural difficulties, pledged to remove her second daughter, Eleanor, 6,

next year. She told the conference: "As a parent and teacher I will continue to support campaigns to rid education of blanket testing on our children." The clash exposes divisions

between the main teaching unions which appear to be widening in the run-up to the election. While NUT delegates voted to ballot for strike action if a new government failed to cut class sizes to a maximum of 30, Mr De Gruchy went out of his way to stress that the NASUWT conference would "certainly not be threatening an in-coming government ... with strike action in the next month or two if problems which have built up over the last couple of decades are not immediately resolved".

However, he spoke of his "alarm" at leaked Tory manifesto proposals to ban strikes by teaching unions, describing the move as "naked fascism". He said: "If that is what the Conservative Party is proposing then it is high time for the nation to wake up. It might be teacher trade unions today. To-

## NAS-UWT puts class discipline at the top of conference agenda

Lucy Ward

The teaching union which waged bitter battles over discipline at the Ridings and three other schools today places classroom disruption at the top of its agenda at the start of its annu-

The National Association Schoolmasters-Union of Women Teachers, which warns that despite four victories it has still to win the discipline war, will demand more support for teachers in dealing with disruptive or violent people.

Delegates at the union's annual conference in Bournemouth will today be recommended to accept a report remainstream schools.

The union's general secre-tary. Nigel de Gruchy, said last with badly behaved pupils.

dren in ordinary schools were so disruptive that they should be transferred to special schools. The NAS-UWT highlighted

its case for a crackdown on classroom discipline last year during disputes in schools including the Ridings, in Halifax, Calderdale and Manton junior school, in Worksop.
Union members at the Rid-

ings threatened to strike over 60 problem children, while at Manton they called for the ex-clusion of one pupil. Addressing delegates at the opening of the conference, the incoming president, Barrie Ferguson, urged the Government to be tough on the causes of disrupjecting the principle of keeping tion. It should re-examine the as many children as possible in role of local authorities, the role of local authorities, the appeals panels and governors in the whole process of dealing

the normal strategies for keeping order in the classroom had gradually come to mean "nought" to an increasing hand of youngsters, Mr Ferguson said. "Now, teachers with a superb teaching style, good class-room organisation, the right body language and good voice modulation are finding that the

word 'no' is a basis for negotiation with an ever-increasing number of pupils." Protests by NAS-UWT members had proved to be "sensible trade union actions", he said.

Another key theme of the conference will be the workloads being shouldered by classroom teachers. Mr De Gruchy has declared his union will give a new government a year in which to take action to reduce

the bureaucracy which is weighing down teachers.

are time-consuming preparations for inspections by the schools watchdog, Ofsted, and the highly detailed recording and assessment of children's progress demanded under the

National Curriculum. If nothing is done, Mr De Gruchy warns of ballors for industrial actions, including

boycott of excess paperwork Mr Ferguson said teachers were so enslaved by hureauctacy that they had no time for after school sports clubs and other

Delegates will wate today on a motion condemning "excessive workload and stress pro-

duced by Ofsted inspections".

The NUT conference at the weekend demanded the sacking of the chief inspector of schools Chris Woodhead, and the abolition of Ofsted.

# election countdown

# I'll accentuate the positive, promises Blair

the young

As positive messages go, you could argue that "Britain Deserves Better" is a little on the negative side.

But there was nothing negative about its delivery yesterday at the start of a Labour poster campaign aimed at dragging the election contest out of the mire of sleaze.

First, there was the location: 18th-century Chilston Park Country House Hotel in Lenham, Kent where rooms cost up which the boxer Nigel Benn to £210 a night. It was once would have been proud.

owned by Thomas Best, a for-mer Tory MP, but is more likely to go down in history as the place where Paula Yates and Michael Hutchence, the rock star, got together behind Bob

Next, there was the presen-tation. More than 200 local party supporters and their children were brought together on the hotel's lawns, cheering wildly as Tony Blair arrived to the pop song "Things Can Only Get Better". It was an entrance of

Finally, there were the per-formances. Mr Blair and his he said "It is an attempt to put deputy, John Prescott, bursting some life and energy into a camwith enthusiasm, said Labour wanted to raise the tone of the campaign, although Mr Prescott couldn't resist cracking a joke about John Major's mability to

bring errant Tories to heel. "He's gone off to the Happy Eater today," said Mr Prescott. "That's the only place where anyone will take his orders." Mr Blair said the posters rep-

resented the beginning of a cleaner campaign. "Today is more than the

Surrounded by children wearing T-shirts bearing the campaign slogan, he spelled out the areas where he believed the country deserved

it hurts politics too."

better: the economy; the health service; education; employment; old age and safer streets. "I have issued instructions that all our new posters between now and 1 May, election day,

"They will tell the country how the nervous wondering what we can make Britain better. paign mired in Tory sleaze. Sleaze may hurt the Tories but

"They won't be running our opponents ragged. They won't be decrying them. They won't be engaged in personality polities. They will be saying what we will be doing to make out country better. It is time to rise above the sleaze that has char-

cation and their party's slicker 1945 onwards," she said. "I

some old Labour supporters would make of all this," said David Nicholis, 41, a company director from West Malling,

"On the whole, I think it's good that the party doesn't feel embarrassed by holding functions at this kind of place any

The party faithful enjoyed it, although one or two felt a little mocomfortable with the 1-

would have approved."

Mr Blair takes his campaign on the road today with the unveiling of five campaign battle buses leased at a cost of

They will take him and a huge entourage of journalists to more than 60 towns and cities across Britain. The Labour leader's bus is equipped with state of the art nunications, a kitchen and

must be positive," he said, image, "It makes me feel a lit- wish he could have been here tractable platform on which he to see this. I'm not sure how he will deliver speeches and hold would have reacted. I hope he question-and-answer sessions with the public. The whole operation has been financed by charging journalists £7,500 each for a nicket.

Aides say Mr Blair, who they consider to be their most potent weapon against Mr Major, will concentrate speeches on what he calls his "Three R's": Reminding people of the Tories record: Reassuring people that New labour is for real; and explaining the Rewards that voting Labour will bring.

Swampy

scales

political

heights

The prospect of Swampy the

prospective parliamentary can-

didnie arose vesterday as the

anti-roads campaigner launched his own 10-point po-

litical manifesto at the site of the

proposed second runway for

in an opening stunt unlikely

to be repeated by other aspiring

politicians. Swampy emerged

from a hole 50ft up a cliff and

abseiled to the ground to explain

his philosophy to reporters, pho-

Daniel Hooper, then an-

nounced that he would be call-

ing his party Never Mind The

Ballots, and would be standing

at the general election against

Graham Stringer, the Labour

party candidate for Manchester

Blackley and chairman of Man-

a tunnelling lamp attached to his head, and standing at the entrance to a tunnel under the

runway site. Swampy said he wanted to put the environment first: "My message to Mr Stringer is stand down, you

don't stand a chance. I aim to be prime minister one day." li was a dramatic intervention by Britain's most famous eco-

warrior. "Nobody should un-

derestimate the level of support

he has, particularly among the

young," one of his followers said

tunnellers

"Vote for Swampy - he's the

managed to delay by two weeks

a High Court action to remove

them from the site. Buoved by

success. Swamov now says he

wants to put up candidates

His 'Don't Fly, Don't Drive'

manifesto includes policies to

stop internal flights, introduce

targets for traffic reduction,

stop airport expansion, tax park-

The protesters have already

man for the job.'

across the country.

Wearing a green rosette and

chester Airport plc.

Swampy, whose real name is

tographers and supporters.

Manchester airport.

Simon Reeve

## Ashdown warned over poor result

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Paddy Ashdown's first appearance in a soft focus society magazine could be subtitled 'hello...and goodbye' after a

helping hand to the exit by Sir

Cyril Smith, the former Liberal MP for Rochdale. Sir Cyril yesterday predicted that Mr Ashdown would step down from the Liberal Democrat leadership if his party failed to make a breakthrough at the general election.

A former Liberal Democrat chief whip, Sir Cyril also warned Mr Ashdown against angling for a seat in a Labour Cabinet. "1 don't think there would be any attempt to throw him out but I think he will resign," Mr Smith said on BBC radio.

"I have no quarrel with anything that Paddy has done except his unwillingness to sign the bottom line that he would not sit in a Labour Cabinet.

"If that possibility ever arose, then some of us would be taking action to stop it," he said.

struggling to stay in double fig-ures in the opinion polls, Mr Smith's prediction of a bleak future for Mr Ashdown is being taken seriously at Westminster. Some Tory ministers are betting that the Liberal Democrats do not increase their number of

seats on 1 May. It came as the Ashdowns looked certain to beat the Blairs and the Majors into Hello! mag-azine. The Liberal Democrat leader, who is soon to become a grandfather, has been invited to join the ranks of Fergie.

Gazza and Madonna, who have all been in the glitzy publication. An aide to Mr Ashdown confirmed that the magazine has approached his office asking to do an "at home" piece with his 31-year-old expectant daughter Kate and her French husband Sebastian.

The proposed location of the Hello! spread has yet to be determined - whether it be the Ashdown's rose-clad cottage in the Somerset village of Nor-

They have written to Kate. so it is up to her what she wants to do," said a party source,

Mr Ashdown, 56, is planning to visit his daughter in Burgundy in the last days of the election campaign to see her new haby, which is due in about three

The eldest of the three main party leaders, Mr Ashdown has since denied rumours that he is embarrassed by the idea of becoming a grandfather as it might conflict with his "Action

The former Royal Marine has again been enjoying his out-doors profile on the campaign trail in the past week - driving a forklift truck and climbing on to a fire engine.

The party source said: "The baby is not going to be born until quite close to polling day. After that, Kate will have a think about it. They have written to her via the office, but it is her decision. All she's worried about ton sub Hamdon, or the small at the moment is the baby."

Down to earth: Swampy launching his manifesto at Manchester airport yesterday

Photograph: Tom Pilston

ing and increase rail freight. Although the date of the announcement is significant, according to Andrew Wood, a spokesman for the protesters, nomination papers have been obtained and could be submitted if money was found to put

"What I would like to appeal for is help with the £500 deposit to enable me to run as parliamentary candidate and to any fat-walleted sympathiser hest in my election campaign." Swampy said.

## Big Mac generation opts for conservative approach

The political temperature may have been raised several degrees by the latest sleaze scandals but many young people feel dis-tinctly cool about the prospect of voting for anyone, according to a selected group of first-time

A number of the Independent group, members of the socalled Big Mac Generation, horn when the ubiquitous hamburger had just appeared on British high streets, will not bother to support any party at all, reflecting their indifference to the political process.

University student Robert Bishop, 19, who like all the sample of young voters lives in the marginal seat of Redditch, says he has made up his mind to abstain. "They [the parties] are just different shades of grey. I think a lot of young people feel this way.

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Asset a Nichark

A stay of the Co

Andrew Davies, 19, a sixth-

are more interested in sniping at each other than putting anything positive forward.

First-time voters are unimpressed by the election

campaign, writes Michael Streeter "I think the sleaze issue is go-

ing to drag on, and that does not make any of them look good." Another college student, Richard Watson, 19, admitted he was interested in the way the media was covering the election, especially the drift of newspapers away from the Conservative Party. But he said he, too, would "probably" not vote despite listening to many of the ar-

guments." Ian Wright, 19, a floor manager at McDonald's, says he is undecided and has has found the campaign so far "boring".

"I think most people I know

ing Green, but has now drifted towards the Conservatives. "I just feel that things in the economy are going okay, and will a ange under Labour do am good for us? in the end, I'm not sme [ill vote at all ...

Among those who have decided to vote, there is more comfort for John Major than Tany Blair, suggesting that alongside a sense of general dis-illustramient with conventional politics, much of the younger generation has a largely conservative approach to society. Rachel Putt, 18, who is at

North East Worcester College, Redditch, who had previously been undecided, had now opted to vote for the Tories. She said her mind had been

made up by Labour's talk of ending the universality of child benefit. "I do not agree with that," she said. "I know that the



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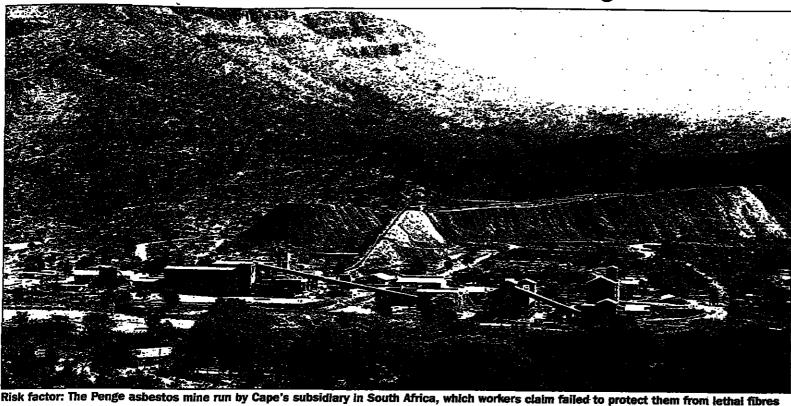
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## South African factory staff sue British firms



Black workers are claiming damages for death and injury from industrial poisoning, reports lan Burrell

Two dozen black workers from southern Africa are set to give evidence in London against British companies which they say poisoned them with asbestos

and mercury.
Two workers have died from nercury poisoning and hundreds from asbestos-related diseases after working at plants set up by British firms. In three sep-arate legal actions, the companies are accused of allowing their subsidiaries to flout safety standards which would have been required in the United Kingdom.

A claim for damages will be served this week on Cape plc, of Middlesex, by solicitors acting for workers at asbestos mines run by the company's sub-sidiary in South Africa. Employees from the Penge mine in north-east Transvaal will produce evidence that children under 12 were made to trample asbestos and pack it into bags while bosses with whips watched over them.

The workers, who were paid £1 a week in the immediate post-war years, later died or be-came seriously ill from asbestosrelated diseases. They allege that Cape was fully aware of the 1931 when Britain's Asbestos Regulations were introduced to reduce exposure to potentially

In South Africa, it is alleged. the company continued to ex-pose its subsidiary company's black woddorce to fibre levels at least 35 times as high as British limits. Asbestos-related cancer takes between 15 and 50 years to appear and victims are still being identified. As part of the same action, two

Afrikaner families living near an asbestos mill at Prieska in the north-west Cape, are also seeking damages from Cape plc. Studies have shown that 14 per cent of deaths in the town are from mesothelioma, a form of cancer only caused by asbestos. Cape said that it pulled out

of South Africa in 1979 and its present business had nothing to do with asbestos. The company's lawyers are preparing a

response to the action. Next October, 20 black South African workers and relatives of dead employees are set to fly to London to give evidence against Thor Chemicals Holdings Ltd, of Margate, Kent, which they accuse of exposing them to po-tentially lethal doses of mercury.

The workers, who are Zuluspeaking, claim that they were given no safety training and were allowed to eat food on the floor of the plant in Cato Ridge, Natal. In 1992, two workers died from mercury poisoning. Ac-tions against Thor were started by their families and 18 other workers, two more of whom have since died.

Thor's lawyers have fought to stop the cases being heard in Britain but the company deleftic as per

clined to speak about the case. A separate case brought against RTZ, the London-based multinational, by a former worker at the company's Namibian uranium mine, will go before the House of Lords this month, when a decision will be made on whether it should be heard in Britain. Edward Connelly, now of Glasgow, alleges that the company breached safety standards in exposing him to uranium dust. He has throat cancer and can no longer work. RTZ which strongly denies responsibility, believes the case should

be heard in Namibia. Richard Meeran, of the London solicitors Leigh Day, said: "These British companies are inevitably responsible for the design of technology and systems of work and have the power and duty to ensure that people are not injured. We are dealing with

## 'I was given no warning by anyone

head to foot in large shipping bags, trampling down deadly as-bestos for their British bosses. As the fluffy amosite asbestos cascaded on to their heads, a supervisor kept them marching with the crack of his whip.

Watching the children, some of whom were under 12 years an exposure to asbestos dust old. Was a South Am eroment medical official, Dr Gerrit Schepers, who recorded what he saw: "I believe these children to have had the ultimate of asbestos dust exposure. X-ray revealed several to have radiologic asbestos [asbestosis] before the age of 12."

Writing in 1949, Dr Schepers was a visitor to the Penge asbestos mine, which British entrepreneurs set up in north-east Transvaal after the discovery of amosite outcrops in 1907. The price of extracting the mineral is still being paid in death and

injury, 90 years later.

This week a claim for damages is being made by three former black workers of the Penge mining company (Egnep) against its British parent, Cape plc. All three have asbestosis and claim that Cape ignored British safety standards and exposed the black South African workforce at Penge to deadly levels of suffocating fibres. Matlaweng Mohlala, now 58,

experienced similar conditions to those described by Dr Schepers. He was employed at 12 and spent 14 years packing asbestos fibre into sacks with his bare hands. He said his employers gave him no warning about the dangers. "None at all by anybody," he

said. "No gloves, boots or any protective clothing was supplied. I was X-rayed on engagement and discharge at Penge but not told anything was wrong."
Mr Mohlala now has a permanent burning in his chest,

struggles to breathe and cannot

work. Yet back in Britain, the dangers of asbestos had been known for more than a gener-Graphs produced by Cape it-self show that asbestos dust levels in the Penge factory were 12 to 35 times higher than permit-ted levels in Britain. In 1979 the mine was finally closed, but the

earchers found that 80 per cent

of black Penge miners who died between 1959 and 1964 had as-

bestosis. Their average age of the men was 43. Cape's operations have also incurred the wrath of rural Afrikaners living close to its plants. While Matlaweng Mohala was packing brown asbestos by hand in Penge, Matthys Nel was a teenager, breathing in blue asbestos fibres in Prieska in the north-west Cape.

Researchers from the National Centre for Occupational Health found that 14 per cent of deaths in the town were from mesothelioma, a cancer caused by asbestos. Mr Nel died from mesothelioma in 1995 even though he never worked at the Prieska mill, which was closed down in 1964. His brother and mother also

Two years earlier in a private

died from the disease:

All day long they stepped. Small report the South African Coun-black children, covered from cil for Scientific and Industrial Research said that "an alarmingly high number of cases with mesothelioma have been discovered among people who live or who have lived in the northwestern Cape area and there is evidence to suggest that this condition is associated with

> The Nel family is claiming damages from Cape, along with Rachel Lubbe, 57, who is still alive but has mesothelioma.

Because the South African mining industry has few white workers it has had less union representation than other industries - and worse safety standards. It was not until 1954 that South African workers were given any regulatory protection against asbestos and

## Mercury staff 'were poisoned'

in 1987 Thor closed its mercury plant in Margate, Kent. There had been repeated inquiries by the Health and Safety Executive into the high levels of mercury being absorbed by workers. The chemicals company no longer makes mer-

cury-based products. In Cato Ridge, Natal, however, the company's subsidiary Thor Chemicals SA expanded its mercury reprocessing operausing technology

developed in Britain. Workers from South Africa who will seek damages in the High Court in London next October allege that they were not warned of the potential dangers of their job. In statements, they say that when the mercury lev-els in their urine reached dangerous levels they were told to "have a few beers" by the man-

In 1992 workers say they re alised something was seriously wrong. They began to hallucinate and show other symptoms of mercury poisoning. Peter Cele, 21, died after six months in hospital. Englebert Ngcobe, 54, died after three years. Both their families are suing Thor. The company is also being sued by 16 other work-ers and the relatives of two others who have since died.

fibre limits were not brought into line with Britain until 1976. But Richard Meeran, a solicitor with Leigh Day, of London. who are representing the plain-tiffs, said: The British companies cannot hide behind the fact that they had no regulations in South Africa. That does not give them a licence to totally dis-

regard hazardous dust levels.
Michael Pitt-Payne, Cape plc's company secretary, said Cape had pulled out of South Africa in 1979 and no longer used asbestos in its products. We sold the companies that were doing the mining in South Africa in 1979 and as such we have got very few people here who had anything to do with that business at the time." He said the action was in the hands of the company's lawyers and he did not wish to comment further.



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Israelis

defiant

as peace

crumbles

Robert Fisk

Israel's beleaguered right-wing

government ducked vesterday

and let the waves of Arab

League indignation wash over

its bruised and battered head.

to freeze normalisation of re-

lations under the peace process

as another stage in a mounting

propaganda campaign against the decision to build 6.500 Jew-

ish homes on Har Homa in

They were disturbed by it, but

not broken. At worst, Israel

would lose diplomatically. "We

benefit," a government spokes-man, David Bar-Illan, told The

Independent, "because we want

to normalise relations with the

Arab world. From the eco-

nomic point of view, it wouldn't

make any substantial differ-

jamin Netanyahu, denounced the Arab foreign ministers' res-

olution as "a step backward from peace". He predicted that

any attempt to revive the eco-

nomic boycott of Israel would

fail. "We're a strong country with

a strong economy," he said. "It

didn't work before. It won't

Har Homa site. His government

John Lichfield

The Front National leader,

Jean-Marie le Pen, yesterday called for abolition of the Fifth

Republic created by de Gaulle

and its replacement by a Sixth

Republic which would defend French "national identity" as the

standard-bearer for nationalist

movements throughout the

counter-attack against allega-

tions that he and his party are

fascist, racist and anti-Semitic. This campaign of vilification was

a strategy by the "corrupt" es-

tablishment parties, and the professional anti-racism lobby

to undermine the only party ca-pable of providing France with

hope of a glorious future.

The speech, touted as the opening broadside in the FN

In his closing speech to the 10th FN congress in Stras-bourg, he threatened to

The Prime Minister, Ben-

ence to us.

Arab East Jerusalem.

Officials dismissed the threat

Jews and Arabs - a public relations line which has singular-

ly failed to convince world

its decision a month ago.

opinion since the Cabinet took

Israel, Mr Netanyahu insist-

ed, wanted to achieve peace, but

that had to mean an end to threats and violence. "We're not

going to redivide Jerusalem on

that basis, and we're certainly

not going to accept a concept

of peace that is based on con-

a less complacent view of the

Cairo offensive. Ehud Barak,

the frontrunner to succeed Shi-

mon Peres as party leader, called on Mr Netanyahu to

stop the dangerous escalation

and resume normal contacts with leaders of the Arab world.

"It is very disturbing," Mr Barak said, "the way we are iso-

lating ourselves with this poli-

cy of destroying the mutual

confidence so intricately nur-

tured by the late Yitzhak Rabin

and by Shimon Peres."

The Clinton administration's

Middle East peace envoy, Dennis Ross, left empty-handed

last week, but there are reports

that the Secretary of State,

Madeleine Albright, is planning

to bring a new compromise

Le Pen sounds call

for Sixth Republic

tablishment; the US-led plot to

his party as a prelude, he

Pen's attempt to take on the

mantle of de Ganlle and call for

gave up Algeria, remains a

villain to many on the

ultra-right. But Mr Le Pen

de Gaulle founded the Fifth Re-public in 1958, Mr Le Pen said. This is a historic model that

elections next year, contained most of the standard Le Pen themes the decadence of the estimates the decadence of the estima

US names new chief of

Nato's forces in Europe

Sixth Republic!"

and "historic duty" to rescue anti-FA France from immobility and urday.

claimed, to a legal ban.

impose a global economy and developments for Mr Le Pen culture; and efforts to traduce yesterday. Four FN members

The chief novelty was Mr Le park. Three of the Frontistses,

complete renewal of all political They appear in court tomorrow, institutions. De Gaulle, who undermining

claimed him as a forerunner ter the destructive behavior of his self-proclaimed mission a minority of members of an anti-FN demonstration on Sat-

A few years after being re-garded as a parish and failure, mittee showed an embarrassing

many should ponder ... Vive the Number Two, Bruno Mé-

for constitutional change, with-out giving many details, this was the first time Mr Le Pen had di-Pen to block Mr Mégret's rise

xth Republic!" gret, who topped the ballot for Although the FN has called the first time. One of his prin-

visit to the region.

The Labour opposition took

tinual threat and blackmail."

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moops in Latin America. As Supreme Commander, Europe (Saceur), he will take wer from Gen George Jodiwan. who is retiring. The post entails who is returning. The post children who is returning all Allied Nato quoted as saying that the job requires somebody to be both a temporaries. forces and US troops based in

Mary Dejevsky

Europe and has always been soldier and a statesman, to deal filled by an American.

mander has assumed particular Gen Clark fits the bill". A seasoned general who served importance because of the acin Victnam, speaks Russian cumulation of major political is- who was decorated in Vietand helped negotiate the Daysues facing the alliance. They nam, the general conforms to named the new commander of Nilo forces in Europe, the differences with Duc. next year, differences with Rus-Pentagon confirmed yesterday. General Wesley Clark, 52, is sia over the eastward expansion and training posts. He has of Nato and France's continued served with Nato in Europe beof Nato and France's continued currently head of the US southinsistence that a European be fore, as senior military assistant em command, based in Panaappointed to head the southern to General Alexander Haig. mu, which is responsible for US

European command. ities and diplomacy. An unnamed Pentagon official was

not only with military officials The choice of the new com-

A graduate of West Point the classic pattern of US army commands with more political

Like President Bill Clinton, Gen Clark is said to have a to whom he owes his latest prohighly developed sense of pol-motion, Gen Clark is a native of Arkansas and studied at Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship,



en chanting anti-Israeli slogans in Gaza yesterday with pictures of their imprisoned sons. However, the Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu (left), with Major-Genral Zeev Livne, is unlikely to yield to their demands Photograph: AP/AFP

may sound like familiar rhetoric, but it is a further symbol of the ever-quickening decay of the American-Israeli "peace process". No one could have imagined, even a year ago, that Arab foreign ministers would be voting to return to the Middle East cold war - and Washington's continuing refusal to understand the depth of betrayal now felt by Arab kings and dictators will only allow the crisis in the region to de-

teriorate at a faster rate. Every day brings a further crack in the crumbling edifice of the "peace process" in which the world was once asked to believe and to invest millions of dollars. Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, insisted that the Arab League's decision was intended to persuade Israeli public opinion to make Mr Netanyahu reconsider his decision to build a new Jewish settlement on occupied land; in truth, only America can do that - and two US vetoes of UN Security Council resolutions

condemning the settlement

But there were two sobering

were arrested after roughing up

two young men in a hotel car-

security guards at the congress,

had claimed to be policemen.

Mr Le Pen's attempt to por-

tray his party as a victim, not a

cause, of political violence, af-

Secondly, the details of the

rejection by Front members of

Mr Le Pen's efforts to curb the

rise of his ambitious, de facto

formula on her first official prove this is a vain hope. What, in any case, is a cold ork now."

That visit promises to be peace with the Arabs worth to the rejected any idea of susmore and more difficult, as israel? In Egypt, for example, pending construction on the each day passes. The Arab ElAl cannot even fly into Cairo League's recommendation to with its name on aircraft. Tourwas determined to continue freeze Arab-Israeli relations ism between Israel and Egypt building in Jerusalem for both and reimpose a trade boycott has virtually collapsed. In Jor-

dan, King Hussein's horror at the murder by a Jordanian soldier of seven Israeli schoolchildren has not been matched by his people. The Jordanian Bar Association has been overwhelmed with lawyers offering to defend the soldier responsible for the slaughter. The king has since replaced his Prime Minister with the man who

signed the peace treaty with Israel, further isolating himself from the Palestinian population.

The Arab League's recommendation to break off multilateral talks with Israel on water, economic cooperation. refugees, the environment and disarmament further destroys one of the dwindling American hopes of a continued "peace

peace" deal promised the Arabs hefore the 1991 Madrid summit in a series of letters from then Secretary of State James Baker - which the European Union wholeheartedly supported has effectively been torn up. Very dark days, therefore, ap-

Europe can save peace, page 14

ELECTION

## significant shorts

## Indian PM given deadline to prove majority

The Indian Prime Minister, HD Deve Gowda, was given until 11 April to prove his majority in parliament, a near-impossible task after his government lost the support of its key ally, the Congress Party, President Shankar Daval Sharma's instruction to Mr Deve Gowda to seek a vote of confidence by 11 April closed the government's option to call snap polls, forcing him either to resign or seek a split in the fractions Congress Party to Reuters - New Delhi gain a majority.

### **Italy haunted by ship tragedy**

Italy searched for more victims of an Albanian shipwreck on Monday as politicians, worried about the reception of an imminent Italian-led mission to the state, argued over the tragedy. Grieving survivors, who lost husbands, wives and young children in the disaster on Friday night. demanded answers from Rome, Tirana says around 80 Reuters - Rome people died in the incident.

#### Go-ahead for Belarus deal

President Boris Yeltsin approved draft documents aimed at promoting further integration between Russia and neighbouring Belarus. While the agreement seeks to bring the countries closer, it will not create a fully-fledged confederation and neither country will exercise control

#### over the other, Russian officials stressed. . AP- Moscow Briton jailed for murdering wife

A Briton living in Cyprus was jailed for 15 years for strangling his Cypriot wife and hurling her budy out of an apartment window last year. David Parris, 34, had pleaded not guilty to charges of manslaughter in the death of his wife, Avgoustina, who was 34 when she died in February 1996.

#### Grenade victims mourned

Cambodians mourned the victims of a grenade attack on an opposition protest that killed 14 people; the Interior Ministry said it was still unclear who was responsible. The attack outside the National Assembly was the worst political violence to hit Cambodia's democracy since the coalition government came to power after UN-organised Reuters - Phnom Penh

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## Springtime thaw softens hard edge of the lethal season

It has been a restless and fret-ful winter, and we will all be glad ond-hand cross-country skis would be bounding up the stair-ful winter, and we will all be glad have been sitting in the corner case on our new, lean, skiing to see it end. Moscow has been seized by an unsettling climatic fever, a cycle of freezing and melting. A month ago it seemed to be spring, but then we were buried anew beneath a carpet of snow. Yesterday, after a weekend in which the heavens dumped four more inches on us, another thaw began.

Russians believe wildly oscillating temperatures are bad for the health because they cause flu, colds, and other nasty bugs to breed, although these seem to flourish no matter what the barometer says. My complaint is of a different kind: for

a brief flurry of determination finally to get fit.

It was going to be a wonderful winter, my wife and I told ourselves last autumn. At weekends we were going to drive out of Moscow to an old and peeling dacha which we share with friends and spend hours gliding effortlessly around the countryside, rejoicing in a fairy-tale landscape covered by powder

After a month or two, we would no longer need to use the rickety lift that conveys us up to the ninth floor of our high-rise hostile climate. They will en-

of our hall, the consequences of legs. Wobbly jaw lines and unconvincing bottoms would vanish like a May frost.

All this must now wait. It took us weeks to equip ourselves, not least because cross-country ski boots proved astonishingly hard to find; in an odd inversion of the laws of supply and demand, these are easily acquired in the summer, but seem to disappear from Moscow's shelves when the snow arrives. What with that, and the erratic weather, we have used the skis only twice. Russians love cross-country skiing. It is deemed to be one of

MOSCOW DAYS

thuse about it with the same passion that they apply to hunting, ice-fishing and figure skating. Yet, for all the disappoint-

ment at this year's poor conditions, I feel compelled to admit my brief excursions into the snowfields unlocked few of its mysterious delights; on the first, we trudged for about 500 yards into the woods, discovered we were exhausted, and walked home; on the second, I was with a colleague who was so much fitter and more agile than me that the pleasures of living in this he grew tired of being held back and took off into the distance.

After marvelling at the spectacular woodlands - pines and silver birches engulfed by the hush of a fresh fall of snow - I also grew bored. Where's the

seemed far too thin; the snow, too deep; my legs, too fat. Next year, I have a new plan: amazingly, given that Moscow is mostly flat, you can go downhill skiing in several places in the middle of the city. Just along from Gorky Park, 10 minutes drive from my home, the land falls down a few hundred yards

sport in sliding slowly across a

dead flat landscape? The skis

a modest feet downhillers can tootle up and town the bill us-ing a small skalow.

even Aviemore to wing its pleasures more to the commanding view across the liver and to

view across the aiver and to-wards the Kreikin than to speed or exercise But at least it is a pastime which has the merit of being faith safe.

That is more than an be said about winter here is general.
We have had our case of rou-tine accidents - this seekend, three fishermen died her they fell into the sea when their ice, floe broke up in a story, this year, 1,066 people in the second alone have been treated for

towards the River Moskva. For frostbite, while countless more mark case, is bringing criminal have been injured by falling over on ice, and 57 froze to death. ng a small skillow. Goodness knows how many
True, this is not St Moritz or road accidents can be blamed Goodness knows how many on the weather, the roads,

which are poorly marked and pot-holed at the best of times, are covered with an icy mucus, a mixture of salt and slush. Moscow does its best to keep the streets cleared. It sends out a snow-clearing lorry known to locals as "the Capitalist" because of its ability to suck up everything around it. But driving outside town is a nightmare.

There are also some particularly nasty unexpected perils. News broke this week of a 22for year-old student who, in a land

negligence charges against the Moscow city authorities after an enormous icicle came crashing down from a five-storey building, and killed her mother as she was walking in the street.

This will probably not be the last tragedy of its kind. This year the cycle of thaws and freezes has produced a particularly large crop of icicles - there were two six-footers hanging like sharks' teeth from the roof of the dacha yesterday, which occasionally shifted, giving off a loud rumble and providing another reason for us all to wish for an end to this lethal season.

Phil Reeves

## **Russia** gets tough with tax dodgers

The billboards around Moscow make the point as clearly as anyone can. A smooth young man in a suit glares out at the world. Like Uncle Sam, he is making a passionate appeal to the nation's patriotic impulses, although he points not with his

finger but with a mobile phone. 'I have submitted mine." says

the logo, "Have you?" Today is the deadline for Russians to hand in their personal income tax returns. For the nation's beleaguered treasurers it is a decisive moment, an opportunity to discover if the government has made any progress with a massive campaign to bring an end to an epi-

demic of tax-dodging, The problem is one of the country's gravest economic maladies, spoiling efforts to switch to free market economics, and souring its relationship with its lenders at the International

Monetary Fund. Tax experts estimate that only about half the country's personal earnings yield income tax, adding to a revenue collection crisis that has reduced budget forecasts to gibberish. The rest of the cash swirls around illegally in the

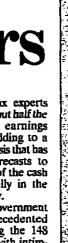
has gone to unprecedented lengths, bombarding the 148

screened showing the tax po-lice's 500-strong Swat team in action. Their equipment includes grenades, tear gas, AK47 assault rifles: mountaineers and snipers are among their ranks. True, they are normally used to pursue mafia-run businesses and other non-paying compa-nies, rather than individuals. But

large black economy.
This year, the government

million population with intimidating television advertisements. One shows a man caught in the cross-hairs of a telescopic sight. "The choice is yours," growls the announcer. Alarming footage has been

that is beside the point. The



into coming clean. Tax gathering in Russia is no easy task. Last year - when Russia managed to raise only about two-thirds of taxes - 26 tax officials were killed and 74 wounded in the line of duty.

quite happy to scare the public

least one was kidnapped. The violence is a result of a running war between the tax authorities and non-paying cor-porations. (These owe billions: half of all Russia's overdue tax is owed by only 73 enterprises.)

cash-starved authorities are Several dozen have had their But it deepens the rift in a counhomes burned down, and at try where the federal authorities are seen as inept and corrupt.

Distrust of officialdom is a central part of the problem. In a recent survey by the Russian Marketing Research Company, 61 per cent agreed that tax evasion is not a crime. "One of the

greatest sources of this in was the amount of money that the government spent on the military in Chechnya," said Peter Rein-

hardt, personal tax manager with Ernst & Young in Moscow. Broadly, the top rate of income tax is 35 per cent, which

kicks in for those earning

Average wages are closer to \$1,800, which is taxed at 12 per cent. VAT is at 20 per cent. Those who lie on their tax returns, or fail to submit them, face penalties ranging from a fine which equals their tax debt,

plus interest, or - for repeat of-

above \$8,500 (£5,312) a year. fenders - a jail sentence of up

to three years. The Swat teams do not help. "They tend to come through the front door and put a revolver up the receptionist's left nostril, no matter what kind of business they are dealing with," said one Western analyst. "It's not very nice."



Payment due: Mikhail Polyakov, head of the tax police's 500-strong Swat unit, flanked by an officer in full regalia

## Workers bid farewell to the doomed yards of Gdansk



Gdansk

The monument to the shipvard workers of Gdansk bears three anchors, to symbolise hope. But hope is in short supply as the shippard, birthplace of Solidar-ity, is finally being closed after 17 years of financial problems and attempted restructuring. The Polish government is mumbling about a deal to save the yard involving a joint programme with the profitable Szczecin shipyards, but the future looks bleak.

After being threatened with closure in 1980, then again in 1988, the Gdansk vards were reprieved to limp along during the early Nineties while their champion. Lech Walesa, was President of the Republic.

Mr Walesa returned to work in the shipyard briefly when he lost the presidential elections n 1995, but his time there was short-lived. He went back to work, he said, because without a presidential pension, he had no money to support his family of eight children. After this stunt, the government passed a new law allowing for ex-presidents to receive a pension. Now he spends his time between the Lech Walesa Institute, where he is building in Warsaw's exclusion Oliwa district.

An air of resignation hangs over the town as the remaining 3,800 men are given their cards and prepare to search for jobs. But resignation is the preserve of the townsfolk. The workers are angry, as evidenced by the daily protests in the past weeks. not only in this port but throughout Poland.

At the Lenin yard, Wojciech Kowalczyk is clocking in for his final shift, as he waits to be laid off the following day, "They said they would reconstruct Gdansk for the city's millennium this year." he says, "but this is what they meant. This is their gift to us. The yard could stay open if only we had support."

Mr Kawalczyk has been a

locksmith at the yard since he left school, and earns 700 zloty a month (£140) for a 55-hour week. He will receive no redundancy pay. The local job agency says there are nearly 1.500 jobs vacant in the region - a figure disputed by Solidarity - but none of them is related to the shipping industry. "I don't know what I will do now. Mr Kowalczyk, says. "There is

no work, and I am angry." The announcement of the shipyard's closure was extremely had timing: simultaneously, the "Order of the White Eagles" a medal of honour - was being awarded by President Aleksander Kwasniewski to Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the former prime minister who tried in vain to close the Lenin yard in 1988. "The President is trying to degives interviews, lecture tours stroy people," said the widow of abroad, and the new house he a shipvard worker. "Rakowski gets a medal, while we go to the

nemployment office. On the other side of the tram lines, workers whose shifts are over cram into small, 65, is worried about his pension. "I'm due to retire." he says. "I don't know whether my pension



Rioting in Gdansk in the 1980s (above left) and work now reading Solidarity papers

is secure. But at least I don't have to worry about work. It's the young men I feel sorry Another rails at Lech Walesa, sparking a fierce argument. "Walesa has abandoned us. I was at school with him, but ical symbolism.

Anyway, he is nothing now. He is just a small man." They are angry at what they see as a political move to crush the yard by the government, which is largely composed of former communists, and with the bank which denied them a crucial loan to fulfil orders for

he has forgotten us. He is a pig.

But the protests in Gdansk have been a muted affair, poorattended by the public, in spite of their sympathy for the mon. At a special mass at St

Brigitte's Church held by Fr Henryk Jankowski, a high-profile priest known in the West for his anti-Semitic views, the ageing congregation fills the collection plates with money for the workers. Stanisław Kaczmarek, 70, has come to pray for them. "I pray daily that the yard won't close." he says. "I live near here, and I remember everysmoke-filled bar. One, nearing thing that happened in 1970. I saw it all." As Poland shuffles ever nearer to the European Union, all sorts of jobs are in

shipyard workers. Since the Eighties the yard has been a financial liability, but no one has managed to close it because it has never been free of polit-

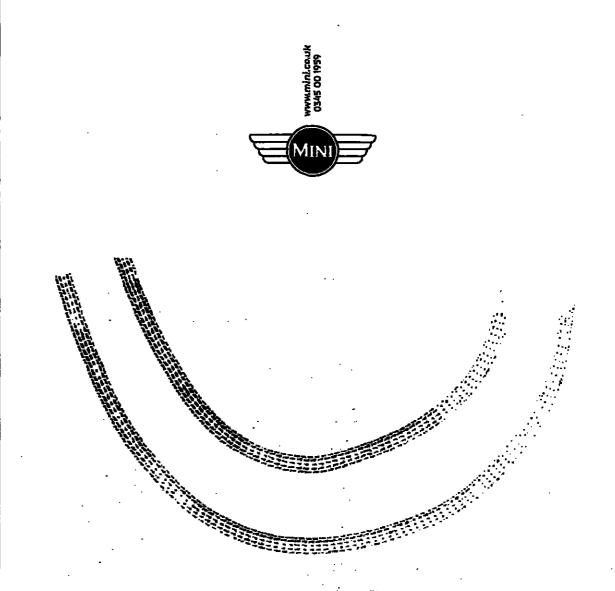
The yard's director, anpointed in 1995, was given unill 28 February this year to save the yard, or sell it. Its book value is \$88m (£55m), but one reputed offer was for as little as

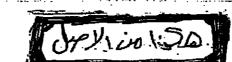
Now, the only real hope is a slim one: that a deal can be forged with the Gdynia yard 32km up the coast and the Szczecin vord 300km away. Gdynia has a full order book until mid-1998, and will deliver 12 vessels worth \$400m this year. The proposal would involve bank loans to finance production of five ships for a Polish company, Polska Zegluga Morska, which would provide work for 2,000 of the 3,800 workers. Analysts are sceptical. They say the proposal would endanger Szczecin's strong position, and that without deadlines nothing more than a state subsidy with political motives.

In the meantime, the workers and Solidarity will continue



TO HAVE A LAUGH,





OU

## Rebels advance as Kinshasa's rich party on

Ed O'Loughlin Kinshasa

Rebels are advancing in the east, Western troops are lurking across the river, and in town one of the President's closest allies has just denounced him, yet in Zaire's plundered capital of Kinshasa life goes on with an air of surreal normality.

While most Western diplomats have already written off President Mobutu Sese Seko's prospects for political survival, the bought politicians and corrupt businessmen who have benefited most from his 32-year reign continue to live out the good life, apparently indifferent to the impending storm.

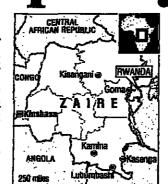
Yesterday brought reports of the fall of Kamina, 400 miles north-west of Lubumbashi, the capital of Shaba province in the south-eastern copperbelt, and the next declared target of the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila. On Saturday the rebels took Kasenga, another key town to the north-west of Lubumbashi, while ex-prime minister Jean Nguz A Karl-I-Bond switched his loyalties to Mr Kabila.

For many wealthy Kinshasans, however, the weekend was another opportunity for golf or tennis, or a chance to shop at the Intercontinental Hotel's expensive boutiques.

On Sunday the foreign press corps, fed up with two weeks waiting for the end to come, downed tools for a game of cricket against the Indian Embassy. It caught well the fin de *siècle* mood.

"The political class in Kinshasa is dancing on a volcano, but they don't care," said one Western diplomat. "They keep their bank accounts overseas, and last week a lot of them sent their Mercedes across the river to the Congo."

Even the ordinary people of Kiushasa, who have helped government troops to pillage the city twice since 1991, seem Two weeks ago the fall of Kisangani, 1,300km to the east, set the capital abuzz with rumours of imminent coups and outbreaks





Laurent Kabila: Town after town falling to his rebeis

of looting. Western diplomats now believe these fears have receded - for the time being.

The presence of 2,000 troops from Belgium. France and the United States just across Congo River in Brazzaville is believed to have reduced the likelihood of a fresh outbreak of street violence. As for political insurrection, most Kinshasans seem to want rid of the Mobutists but are willing to

leave the job to someone else. We don't know that Kabila will be any better, but we know we need a change," said Alphonse, a driver by trade. Thirty years of Mobutu is much too long - the bosses have taken all the wealth of the country, and we have nothing. Kabila will be very welcome if

see what happens. The calm in Kinshasa may reflect a dangerous delusion in

diplomat claims that there are still politicians and soldiers in Kinshasa who believe Mr Mobutu can pull off an escape act, that France might still come to their aid, that the rebellion is merely an invasion by Rwandan Tutsis - even that Zaire's unpaid demoralised bandit army can still save the day.

Some observers believe that, despite President Mobutu's illness, his regime is playing for time, hoping to put off real ne-gotiations with Mr Kabila's rebels until after a ceasefire is somehow imposed by the international community. There are rumours that he may reinstate veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi as prime minister, in an attempt to split the opposition.

But beyond the heavily guarded confines of Mr Mobutu's Tsitaki palace few people believe that time is on his side. Prostate cancer has destroyed his health, and this week Kinshasans were recalling again his promises that "Zaire will have a late president, but never an expresident" .The jury is out on the prediction: in the east Mr Kabila has already symbolically reinstated Patrice Lumumba's leftist Congo Republic, replaced by Mr Mobutu's Zaire followg a 1965 coup.

The rebel advance is pushing towards the main diamond and copper mining centres of Mbu-ji-Mayi and Lubumbashi, source of most of his regime's wealth and power. Diplomats believe that, denied access to his revenue, Mr Mobutu's regime will collapse without any need for further military action.

"Kinshasa has to fall from the inside," said one Western diplomat. "For the rebels to come here is too far and too complicated." Few people, Zairean or otherwise, believe now as they did

a few months ago that a rebel victory will cause Zaire to splinter immediately along ethnic or provincial fault lines. Instead, for Mr Kabila to come and liberate them, the man once reviled for breaking the nation is Mobutist circles. One Western now being asked to unify it. I board punching out stories



## Hong Kong still worth a gamble

Hong Kong

Schizophrenia is setting in. At any rate, this is the diagnosis proffered by some well-meaning friends. They fear that my work for this newspaper and my business interests are moving fast in different directions.

Let me explain: I think I am the only foreign correspondent in Hong Kong to have started a business here. It is a food related business, because I believe in the old maxim that whatev-

er happens, people have to eat. This year, the year in which China takes over the colony, I and my partners, the majority of whom are Chinese, will be doubling the size of the business money to do so.

Meanwhile, I spend my time hunched over a computer key-

rounding the return to Chinese rule, the dangers posed by varions changes and generally reflecting what may be described as a rather pessimistic outlook.

Surely, therefore, I should be scrambling to liquidate my financial interests and ferret what can be salvaged back to a safe bank account in Blighty. How can I justify casting doubt on what China describes as the Glorious Return to the Motherland" without acting on the logic of this view?

Believe me, I do think about this. However, I feel that my mindset is now similar to that of most of the Chinese people around me. They, too, must take some significant decisions about more importantly, where to keep themselves. Many decide that security can only be gilaranteed by leaving and starting the Chinese system is a salutary ... in shiploads. It also helps to exa new life overseas. The majority stay, including those with the

means to quit. They do so not necessarily because they believe all the guff about returning to the motherland but because when they do their sums they discover they will be far better off in Hong Kong than in the low growth economies of

My partners and I have done our sums and, accordingly, have taken the plunge into new investment. We reckon we will make a good return. None of us is under the illusion that we're not taking a risk, probably greater than the type of risk busiessmen would take elsewhere.

the possibility that everything could go horribly wrong, mean-

make, seems to indicate that the rewards justify the risk. Here's the rub. I imagine that our calculations are much

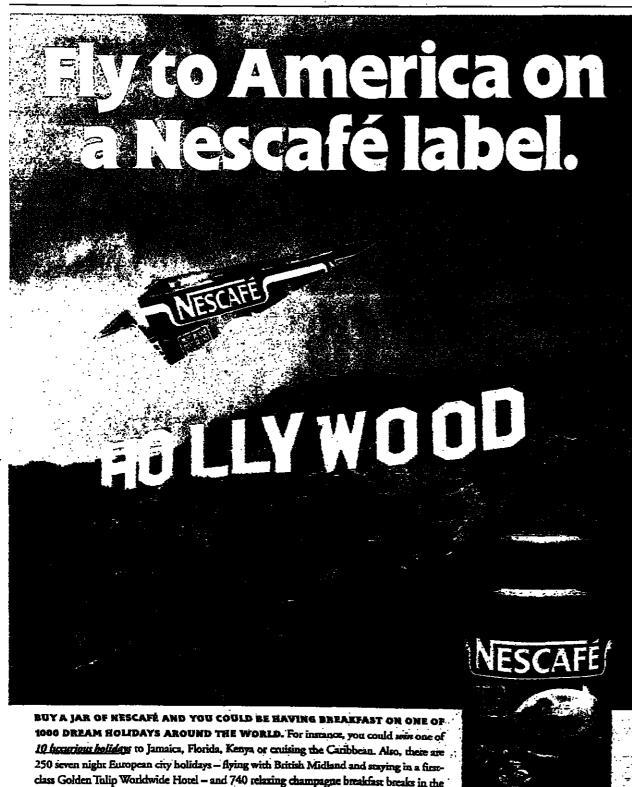
the same as those being made by a host of other people here in Hong Kong. We are all balancing risk and reward. Some may be more bullish and confidently assert that the rewards outweigh the risks. I would not go that far, preferring the cautious assessment that the rewards justify the risk. The laws of commerce are no different here than elsewhere, meaning Only a fool would ignore that the greater the risk, the greater the reward.

Once this is understood, it being we could literally lose every comes clear why the local stock brought up in China during the, erty prices retain their steady Cultural Revolution. Experi upward climb and why money exce the potential madness of is not leaving these tiny shores reminder of what could happen. plain why survey after survey
However, the upside, conshows that people are confident

tained in the figures predicting about the future. The truth is what sort of money we could that we are all ensuared in a conspiracy of confidence. We have taken a gamble by investing in Hong Kong and would be foolish to go around saying that we've taken the gamble on a place with foundations which are about to crumble.

Outsiders, but no one here. might wonder whether these strictures apply just to fat-cat capitalists and aspirant fat-cat capitalists. The question can only be asked by those who do not understand Hong Kong.

The reason Hong Kong works is that few people believe that they, or at least their children, have no chance of getting rich. The culture of low expectations is non-existent here. the stock market and are familiar with the currency markets. They, too, want to take a gamble on the future and will do so, given half a chance. Letters, page 13



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## China boasts of record on rights

**Teresa Poole** Peking

China, which insists it has no political prisoners, yesterday admitted 2,026 people were in jail for "counter-revolutionary" crimes. Zhang Xiufu, Vice-Minister of Justice, said: "In China, counter-revolutionary prisoners are not political prisoners, they are prisoners who have endangered national security ... or have conducted activities to overthrow the political power of China."

The distinction is largely academic for the families of those who have been locked away. Relatives of Wang Dan, the former student leader who last year was sentenced to 11 years for subversion, say he is suffering from stomach, throat and prostate problems. Mr Zliang insisted the prisoner was in good health, and "even joined a singing contest in prison"."

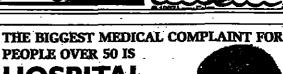
There was little evidence yesterday, as China published its annual White Paper on its own human rights record, of the more receptive" stance US vice-president A) Gore said he witnessed last week when raising the subject with China's leaders. Peking has been broyed by France's decision not

to co-sponsor a motion criti-cising China at the UN Human Rights Convention in Geneva. The White Paper maintained China's position that the right to food and shelter transcends other considerations. "The progress China made in its human rights undertakings in 1996 has once again proved China al-ways places top priority on its people's right to subsistence and development," it said. There

Economic growth, legal re-form and the "strike hard" crackdown on crime were cited as evidence of improved human rights. Last month, China scrapped the charge of counter revolution in favour of endangering state security. On paper there have been many reforms The problem is the gulf between theory and practice.

was no mention of dissidents.

Yesterday, Mr Zhang was asked why Bao Tong, 63, re-leased from prison last May, is still under house arrest. Mr Bao was the most senior political figure jailed after the Tiananmen Square massacre .
\*High-level departments think he is not suitable any more for ministerial-level housing and want to change his residence hat have so far failed to do so. Mr Zhang said.



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## Could Labour master the mandarins?

t's odd how, despite being hand-bagged by Margaret Thatcher and battered in the service of Tory ministers who have been deserted by their sense of proportion and parliamentary propriety, the mandarinate retains its mystique. Former permanent secre-taries are feted with hardly a backward glance at their departmental stewardship. The conduct of schools, prisons, abattoirs and child support offices, let alone exchange-rate decisions, are never held to be the responsibility of the advice-givers of Whitehall - those eminent public servants who, as we reported yesterday, fear that Tory reforms to Whitehall have gone too far, debilitating the machine.

Meanwhile, important relationships remain deliberately shrouded. Column inches are expended on speculation about who might succeed Sir Robin Butler as head of the Civil Service and Cabinet Secretary, but nobody bothers to ask with whom Sir Robin has a contract of employment, indeed whether he has one at all, let alone what are the performance criteria that might, say, win him a bonus. In other words, for all the effort expended on managerial reform inside central government over recent years, the higher Civil Service has largely

gone unexamined and so unchanged. Whoever wins the election, they will on 2 May inherit a Whitehall machine that is part-reformed and so only partmodernised. Aspects of its work remain

mysterious - that word is apposite in a constitutional set-up that obfuscates the sources and exercise of power as a matter of course.

But the system works. By and large, policies get implemented. Efficiency has, in some areas, demonstrably increased. The Conservatives deserve credit for having asked sharp questions about operations. Why, asked Michael Heseltine as long ago as 1980, do we not know what departmental officials do, let alone how much they cost? The Financial Management Initiative of the early Eighties provided some answers. Why, asked a White Paper in 1988, is Whitehall management so amateur? The establishment of executive agencies to administer passports and licences began to supply a remedy. But the Conserva-tives funked equally pressing questions, to do with the architecture of Whitehall: why do we have all these departments pursuing such anachronistic purposes? The débacle in the running of prisons was not principally Michael Howard's fault; it was the fault of a Cabinet that refused to address the problem of professional service management under amateur ministers.

On winning, Labour would thus inherit a machine, some of whose parts are running better than ever, but one that has managed to duck big questions about power and responsibility. Signs are that Labour has done little thinking in detail about where it wants to take



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reform. Instead, as power has beckoned, we have seen the hoariest of leftof-centre anxieties getting trotted out. Like the one about the mandarin embrace. It is as if Tony Benn were still politically alive, and permanent secre-taries were a kind of fifth column out to seduce Labour ministers away from the true socialist faith.

The gist of the advice tendered to would-be Labour ministers yesterday in a Fabian pamphlet by Peter Hennessy was: "Shape up and tell the civil servants what to do, firmly, and they will." Such schooling is welcome, if only to dispel any lingering nonsense about the higher

Civil Service having been corrupted by serving the Tories for all these long years. Labour has more to worry about in the intellectual bankruptcy of senior officials than from their loyal service to the Tories - in certain policy areas, such as Europe, jobs and social policy, Whitehall has become a desert of knowledge and ideas. But the main point is that a clear distinction needs to be made between civil servants as partisans of the party in office and the fact that civil servants draw their identity from obliging the present holders of power - ministers. The Scott report on arms to Iraq, and the equally informa-

Prison Service, tell of civil servants whotare not employed to make moral or political distinctions. Their task is to sustain power, which for practical

purposes means their ministers.

Whether this professional dedication is addirably directed is a different question from whether Labour minisas it is, obseek to reform it while simul-taneously governing according to its

new priorities.

Some reform will be forced on it willy-nilly it is hard to see Labour's spending deminiments being delivered by the Treasury as presently constituted, just as it is hard to see Tony Blair failing to balance his position against the Treasury by beefing up No 10. Similarly, Labour's commitment to devolution of fower to Scotland and Wales will force whitehall changes. But, beyond that? Des Labour plan to govern with civil servants whose culture and reflexes contributed, in those events and reflexes contributed, in those events and procedures so panistakingly described in the Scott report, to the amoralism which is now surfating as "sleaze"?

Civil servants would prove as adept

at the black arts under Labour as under the Tories. Labour, however,

tive if tendentious memoir by Derek is thinking about incorporating the Levis of his 1,000 days at the head of European Convention on Human Rights, is warm towards partiamentary reform and freedom of information. All those could weaken the old loyalty of civil servant and minister and, temporarily at least, leave Labour ministers less adept in the exercise of power.

It is a conundrum on which Mr Blair and his colleagues have spent little menters might benefit from it. They cer-tal energy, mainly because they think it tainly could. If Labour wins the election, it can either utilise the machine want, and getting on with it. They want, and getting on with it. They ought to think more carefully, because if they are not sure what they want (and they aren't, entirely), Labour ministers may find that the inhabitants of Whitehall are less help than they hope.

## A small victory for Rutland

Welcome back, Rutiand. (Though, of course, you never really went away.) What lessons can we draw from your inhabitants' long refusal to accept incorporation into Leicestershire? Simple, really. One, don't mess with other people's sense of their own identity: they know a lot more about it than you do. Two, small is not necessarily beautiful. In Rutland, perhaps; but in appears friendly toward the emerging the centre of any of our larger conformal code of Civil Service conduct, urbations, it most certainly is not.

## • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

## Yes, sleaze is the real election issue

Sir: Even your leading article "For democracy's sake, sack him" (31 March) follows the line that sleaze is a distraction from the main election issues. I find that a bizarre reading of a bizarre campaign.

The issue in this election is accountability, in a great range of forms. Is Westminster government free to refuse the constraint of full partnership in Europe, and to emasculate local government? Can individual ministers preside over preventable disasters and stay in office? Is it acceptable for one party to hold power for a quarter of a century? And, of course, can members of a government exen themselves from public morality?

What is bizarre is that nobody seems willing to say this is the core of the election. The real issues used to be economic, but the electorate. knows there is as near consensus there as does not matter. But the divine right of Westminster governments - that is not only a

real issue, but a gigantic one. Although we seem to be too shy to say we care about such things. sleaze is a proxy that we dare to name. So - let us talk about it. Dr RODDY COWIE

Sir: There is a public hunger for parliamentary probity, gravity and responsiveness. This might be a good moment to introduce an Electorate's Charter, like the Patient's Charter, specifying standards of performance. My own profession has chosen this moment to reconsider the Hippocratic Oath. There is another principle by which we are adjured to work:
"First, do no harm ..." This should be graven in letters of fire on the minds of parliamentarians too.

The electorate is losing whatever measure of confidence it ever had in Parliament. A reformed and independent second chamber could have as a primary duty the disciplining and surveillance of the Commons. Dr STEVEN FORD MRCGP

Haydon Bridge, Northumberland Sir: Mr Fayed behaved disgracefully in offering money to MPs and those who took the money behaved disgracefully too. They ought not to be in Parliament. Mr Merchant allowed himself to be trapped into folly by a girl of an age to be his daughter and he must not stand for Parliament again. But why have the crusading Guardian and Sun attacked sleaze only among Tories? Do they think the public so naïve as to believe that there are no black sheep among the other parties? It really would be in the public interest if the job were

done properly.

I see two clear outcomes of the scandals. Parliament must no longer regulate itself; and professional lobbvists must be banned. DONALD KING Crockenhill

Sir: In connection with the various sleaze accusations, we are hearing a lot about the "natural justice" that the accused are said to be entitled to. What do those who use the term mean by "natural justice"? Nature is "red in tooth and claw". Justice. like "fair play", is something that we agree to extend to one another. Unlike sleaze, there is nothing natural about it. Dr D ZUCK London NI2



#### Goalposts move as Iragis starve

Sir: The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, makes it clear that the ever-moving goalposts relating to the lifting of the embargo on Iraq have again shifted ("US committed to hard line against Saddam's Iraq", 27 March). Compliance with UN resolutions concerning Iraq's weapons is no longer sufficient for the lifting of sanctions. Given the Security Council's dexterity since the end of the Gulf War, even if total compliance is achieved, another goal post will appear. One condition to be complied

with by Iraq is human rights. Yet according to the US-based International Humanitarian Law Commission report, compiled from UN agencies own figures, 47,500 people died in one year alone as a direct result of UN sanctions. By 1994, 500,000 children were dead. Deaths from malnutrition have increased eightfold since 1989.

A project undertaken in Baghdad found 28 per cent of children stunted. There was severe vitamin D deficiency amongst the population, Diarrhoca, dehydration, typhoid, diabetes, hepatitis, marasmus and kwashiorkor (the last eradicated prior to the embargo) were souring. Medication is almost non-existent, and surgery has been cut by 70 per cent and is often performed without anaesthesia because of

shortage, the report states. Chlorine and spare parts for water treatment plants are banned under the sanctions, so the water is severely contaminated and waterborne diseases also endemic. Yet in spite of this silent

holocaust in the name of democracy, when Ms Albright was asked on the US television

programme Sixty Minutes (12 May 1996) if the deaths of half a million children "was worth it" in order to overthrow Saddam Hussein, she replied " ... it is a hard choice, but ves, the price, we think the price is worth it. FELICITY ARBUTHNOT London E9

Sir. US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has endorsed the continued economic embargo aimed at the Iraqi people, which has already caused many thousands of deaths. These were not

accidental or unforeseen. In US law, international terrorism is defined as "acts dangerous to human life ... that appear intended to coerce a civilian population or to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion. The embargo fits this definition.

The Additional Protocols of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 define as war crimes "making the civilian population the object of attack", as well as "launching an indiscriminate attack affecting the civilian population or civilian objects in the knowledge that such attack will cause excessive loss of life, injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects".

To starve a population falls squarely into this definition. High Contracting Parties to these conventions and protocols are required to prosecute individuals responsible for war crimes. Yet no court has initiated any legal inquiry or proceedings in this matter. ELIAS DAVIDSSON Reykjavik, Iceland

#### Benefit change hits disabled

Sir: It would appear that in the proposed changes to housing benefit little thought has been given to the impact on disabled people. The changes would limit the amount of housing benefit available for single people under 60 iving in the private sector to the cost of shared accommodation.

This would mean that disabled people living in self-contained accommodation might have to move to shared housing. Not only is shared housing not suitable for many disabled people, but it may be impossible to find accessible shared housing. For example, it may be dangerous for someone with a visual impairment to share accommodation with other people who may inadvertently move furniture or kitchen equipment. Although the Government intends to exempt those they consider severely disabled, this will only affect a maximum of 6,000 people, a small percentage of the disabled

people who would be affected.
These proposals could also prove very expensive. In 1994/5, 1,500 private-sector tenants received disabled facilities grants to adant their homes. The average grant was £3,700. If these disabled people have to move to shared housing

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

they will need another grant. Added to this will be the increased cost to social services for community care if the shared accommodation is limiting the disabled person's independence.

The regulations are now before Parliament and the proposals are due to be implemented in October. We would urge the next government to reconsider. BERT MASSIE

The Royal Association for Disability ondon EC1

#### Hong Kong press still awake

Sir: Your leading article (29 March) about Hong Kong's "worrying week", faithfully reflecting the fashionable view, in London at least, concludes that it is "harder and harder to express any criticism of the new order". As it happens, last week provided a couple of pointers in exactly the opposite direction which may indicate that we haven't all sunk into the trance you ascribe to us.

There were two big political controversies here during the week - the appointment by the future Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, of a high-profile politician and surveyor to head his housing task force, and a comment by one of Mr Tung's advisers saying that the courts here were not empowered to take up the question of the legality of the provisional legislature

On the first issue, Mr Tung ran into a barrage of criticism. As well as comment from politicians, there were a dozen editorials and columns pointing to the potential conflict of interest in the appointment, plus a batch of

investigative stories on the surveyor's business record. On the second, a wave of protest, which was fully reported in the press, culminated in Mr Tung himself saying that the courts were free to question anything.

It may be that most newspapers

here are generally supportive of Mr Tung, but that does not mean they have given up their liberty. After all, I guess it may be harder than it once was to find criticism of the coming new order in Britain in the biggest-selling daily in the land.
IONATHAN FENBY South China Morning Post Hong Kong

Sir. Words cannot describe the excitement I felt when I recognised a face from my past on the front

page of The Independent (24 March) - Lily Wong. My relationship with Lily began some eight to nine years ago. I, like Lily, call Hong Kong home and am the product of an East-West marriage similar to Lily and Stuart's. When I moved to the UK in 1989 my parents continued to collect the strips and kept me up to date with HK life and political developments. When Lily was ripped away from her public I had

given her up for lost I shall be returning home for the hand-over and the next 90 days will be a fairly emotional time. It is therefore wonderful that Lily will be here for the duration. CAROLINE GREEN London SW15

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#### Pay parents to stay at home

Sir: Polly Toynbee is taken to task by Elizabeth Young (letter, 28 March) for failing to acknowledge that many women would opt for full-time stay-at-home motherhood if they could afford to. Elizabeth Young suggests that child benefit should be increased, up to school age, so as to give mothers that

This has long been argued by Michael Young and Professor Halsey, as a "Guardianship Allowance", payable to the parent willing to stay out of the labourmarket and be a full-time guardian. My own preference would be to extend the allowance to cover all the primary years, up to the age of 12 - and to pay it at a reasonable flat rate of £100 per week, though liable to income tax. Child Benefit would continue, albeit at a lower level, to reflect the number of children in the family.

This new manifestation of the welfare state might at first seem "expensive", in the prevailing language of public parsimony. But, as Elizabeth Young points out, the labour market would be easier for those with no option but to depend upon it, educational standards would improve, and crime and teenage disruptive behaviour would be dramatically reduced. ROGER WARREN EVANS

#### Tricky figures from Forsyth

Sir: I congratulate Anthony Bevins ("Tartan dividend pays off for Scots", 24 March) for taking the trouble to check the veracity of Michael Forsyth's statistics regarding the difference in dentifiable public expenditure between the nations which make up the United Kingdom. Most political journalists from Londonpased newspapers appear to accept the Scottish Secretary of State's figures and to quote them

Here in Scotland we tend to view Mr Forsyth's statistics with a great deal of scepticism. Comparing identifiable public expenditure between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom is meaningless.
Scotland and England, for example, are funded in quite different ways and local authorities in Scotland have more statutory responsibilities than their English counterparts. The Government is always careful to exclude unidentifiable public expenditure from its statistics, which invariably favours England. The statistics which Michael Forsyth and the Government use (and abuse) conceal as much as they reveal. LINDA MACNISH Forres, Moray

## Wedded bliss

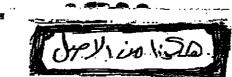
Sir: Petronella Wyatt ("Marriage? No, I'd rather live", 28 March) lists among her reasons for wishing to remain single the belief that "Sexual autraction runs its course in

two or three years".

Whilst I would not in any way attempt to dissuade her from the single life, if that is what she chooses, she should not be so dogmatic nor pessimistic. I have been married now for 16 years (to the same person).

One of the main reasons I chose

my husband was sexual attraction, and I feel no differently about him KATHARINE MOURBY



# A new partner for the Middle East

The United States has lost any credibility it once had with the Arabs as an honest broker for peace. Only Europe can fill the gap now, argues Robert Fisk

even if - through amnesia or All relations between the Arab wishful thinking - they are largely ignored in the West. frozen, on the orders of the Almost 5,000 Egyptian students Arab League. last week demanded a "holy war" for Jerusalem and were since the emirate was liberated by the United States in 1991, an American flag has been burnt in the streets of Kuwait. Iran has renewed its ties with the PLO after 18 years of mutual hatred in a meeting that also went largely unrecorded. President Rafsaniani met Yasser Arafat in Islamabad - while outside Jerusalem, the mother of the Palestinian who slaughtered three young Israeli women with his suicide bomb announces that her son "died nobly". The Israeli secret services -

largely regarded as death

soon will the been told to operate once again explosion in the in Palestinian "autonomous Middle East areas", while the PLO has come? The signs warned that Israeli agents will are everywhere, be shot down if they are found. states and Israel are to be

Why haven't the Americans are to blame. After all, until only a few days ago, a BBC World Service reporter was still blithely talking about Israel's construction of a "Jewish housing project" on a "disputed" hill outside Jerusalem, as if all that was at stake was an argument over a public utility. The "project", of course, is a Jewish settlement and the hill is occupied Arab land upon which any construction is in flagrant violation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, the resolution that was supposed to be the very foundation of the 1991 Madrid "peace process".

It is not difficult to see how this kind of reporting can incomprehensible. If no more than a parcel of "disputed" have led a Palestinian to murder three women in Tel Aviv? Even the Palestinian who killed three people at the Empire -and, indeed, the Europeans - State Building - a murder political motives - now turns out to have written a letter before his suicide in which he raged against the taking of Arab land by Israel.

It is, of course, too late to hope that the US will shake itself free of its thrall to Israel. Madeleine Albright devoted almost all her recent remarks on the crisis to the need for Arafat to prevent "terrorism", devoting only the mildest criticism to Israel for the Abu Ghoneim/Har Homa Jewish settlement. US negotiator Dennis Ross's latest visit to Arafat



Getting involved: Jacques Chirac pushes away an Israeli bodyguard in Jerusalem last October

Photograph: Reuters

the proposed relationship.

o in the critical days

at the least - a neutral third party as the American "peace

process" inevitably fragments.

Perhaps the catastrophe loom-

ing in the Middle East will

force European ministers to

In both Europe and Amer-

ica, the British foreign secretary

Malcolm Rifkind has been

doggedly criticising Israel's

settlement policies, but it is

Perhaps it should also make

independent lead.

ahead, Europe will have an opportunity to offer -

total failure. How pitifully Washington has fallen from the aspirations it held out to Arab and Jew at Madrid in 1991. And how pathetic is the to intervene in the Middle East

to save the peace. Europe? After the catastrophe of Bosnia, how can any Arab Mushim trust Europe? How, indeed, could any Israeli Jew trust Europe when from that continent's very heart came those who committed the most wicked crime of modern history, the Holocaust? Yet Europe has been integ-

rally involved in the "peace ess". It was represented at the Madrid summit. It has bankrolled the 1993 Oslo embassies, rewards that will be kept, of course, by those who are now destroying the peace. It was Europe, too, which accepted - long before the US and Israel ever did - that the PLO should be involved in ce negotiations. British, as well as other European ambassadors, met Yasser Arafat's senior officials throughout the

Seventies. There is still a rumour in the Middle East that many of Arafat's speeches between 1988 and 1992 were drafted by the then British ambassador to Tunis.

And it was the member tates of the European Union in 1980 that drafted the Venice declaration, which specifically stated that the PLO should be "associated" with peace negotiations. The terms of the Venice declaration were repeated by European foreign ministers in Paris four years later when they added their support to the "right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, with all that this implies" (the last five words underlined in the official statement).

The Europeans maintained foreign policy, Europe none their commitment to Middle the less has a political stake in their commitment to Middle East peace. In Brussels in 1987, Community foreign ministers Gaza, and giving preferential goods from the occupied territories. A year later, the EU was welcoming the Palestine National Council's acceptance of **UN Security Council resolution** 242 - calling for total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab land in return for the security of all states in the area - the same resolution that James Baker was later to cite,

in confidential letters to Arab leaders, as the basis of the of the 1993 Oslo

deal between Israel and the allowed both sides to delay the most impor tant issues that separated them - giving Israel time, for exam-

ple, to encircle Jerusalem with settlements such as Har Homa which contained no international guarantees, which left half the Palestinian population with no "right of return", and, most damaging of all, effectively allowed Israel to renegotiate UN resolution 242 rather than be compelled to abide by it. A supine United States - whose Middle East policy is indistinguishable from Israel's - has signally failed to stand by its obligations as an "honest broker" in the "peace process". This is why so many in the Middle East are now

looking towards Europe. Enfeebled as it may be because of its lack of a common

the Middle East. Last year, President Jacques Chirac and Lebanon and, by travelling secured a place for France on Israelis. The French, as well as

October - and by publicly Israeli security men surround-Since the 11th century, the

conflict between Christianity and Islam has been our conflict, so why should the Muslims trust us?

encouraged the Palestinians to excesses of American policy. believe that Europe understood their predicament and the imbalance in the "peace process". Chirac felt personally humilitraditional subservience that ated, privately expressing his the US demands of its Arab exasperation at the Israelis who insisted that he always left and entered his Jerusalem hotel via the tradesmen's entrance. But it was de Charette who bluntly asked this week "whether we can any longer talk about a peace process". It is the French Madrid ... Conference, including the principle of land for parliament which is now recon-The Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean partnersidering whether Israel should ship" - for it extended the Midstill be given special trading sta-tus with the EU. dle East to Morocco and Algeria - also produced political objectives: democracy, human

Perhaps what is needed is a closer realisation of what the Middle East - and the north African nations, as well - mean to Europe. America has iden-

tified national interests in the Middle East; cynics might sum them up as Israel and oil, though not necessarily in that something infinitely more important: the nations of the Middle East are our neighbours of America.

Since the 11th century, the conflict between Christianity So why should Muslims trust us. given the murderous nature of that relationship? Yet in many parts of the Middle East, Eurthe old Soviet Union - whose friendship must last longer than America's, whose interests are

> and a role in the area. EU financial whose relapenalties against those who tionship break their agreements might be a fair balance to the rewards with region that Europe has dutifully however handed out over the past six tragic or evil it has been at least now

an offer of peacekeepers from Nato nations who could ensure avoids the that the terms of the original 1991 "peace process" are kept, and who could judge how rig-The 1995 Barcelona conference offered European "partnership" with the nations of the orously both sides are prepared Middle East rather than the to stick to the terms of this agreement. For only by a return to the land-for-peace deal based on UN resolution 242 allies. Barcelona demanded a peace settlement based on UN which the Arabs were originally promised - is a future blood-Security Council resolutions bath likely to be avoided. "and principles mentioned in the letter of invitation to the

Perhaps, too, European journalists (including the BBC) – as opposed to American reporters
- must face more truthfully the moral issues of the Middle East crisis, however much they may be criticised for doing so. In any event, American credibility is now at its nadir in the Arab world. There is no reason why Europe should join it in disas-

## God sends Channel 5 and oven gloves

was at home last week. minding my own business (which I can't tell you about, obviously, as it was my own business when there came a knock at the door. Then there came a ring at the door. Finally there came a shout of: "Anyone in?

Reluctantly I stopped minding my own busines and went to answer the door where I found a smart-

looking young man with a large bag over his shoulder.
"Good morning," he said.
"I wonder if you have ever read this little book?" And he pushed a religious tract into my hand, which I saw at a glance would lead to eternal salvation if I followed

its precepts.
"No," I said, "and nor do I want to. Eternal salvation sounds too gloomy by far. Temporary salvation, maybe. Salvation every other Thursday, definitely. But not the eternal kind." His eyes never flickered.

"You're not a religious person, then?" "I have my own personal arrangements with God " I said. "He doesn't bother me and I don't bother Him." ."Fine." said the man

"How are you off for oven

"Pardon?" I said, taken slightly off-guard. "We have some

particularly good gloves at the moment," he said, opening his bag to reveal a spread of domestic treasures. This is the good oldfashioned cotton kind, absolutely proof against burns, in three traditional colours ..

"Hold on," I said, "I thought you were a God "And so I am," he said. "If you had shown any signs of

being saved I would have tried to save you, but as you were obviously beyond redemption, I thought you might buy some oven gloves."
Do you think oven gloves will redeem me in some way not known even to oven-

glove manufacturers?" "I will ignore your snide tone," he said. "I will merely point out that those of us who tramp from door to door trying to spread the gospel, and usually failing, have recently realised that we should diversify. We have unique access to the front doors of the kingdom. Why not use it to sell useful

objects as well? "And make a bit of money on the side? "And make a bit of money



Miles Kington

on the side. Now, we have also got garden kneelers, clothes pegs, ironing board

He went through the usual list of pedlar's wares. As usual, I didn't really need any of them! As usual, I bought lots. I have almost enough gardening gloves now to start my own peddling business. my own peddling business. Maybe that is how a lot of door-to-door pedlars get started. They're simply offloading the stuff they have bought from other pedlars.

I started to close the door to indicate that I had run out of ready money.
"Well, if you're not going to buy any more," he said.

perhaps I could come in and get on with the rest of my

rights, liberal economies. Not,

you may say, the sort of aspi-

"The rest of your business? Reading the gas meter, perhaps?" I said, with a return of my snide tone. "Watering my house plants? Doing a bit of letter dictation?"

"Retuning your TV set to Channel 5," he said. "You're a Channel 5 retuner?" I said.

I hadn't been expecting "Once you're a

combination missionary and

pediar," he said, "it is but a small step to taking on other functions. Many small fundamentalist churches have eagerly embraced the opportunity to learn a new skill, that of retuning your channel Indeed, you could say, could you not, that we men and women are all of us TV sets, human TV sets, as it were, but only programmed to receive what we want to hear. How easy it would be to retune our hearts to receive God's message! Would it not be better to point your aerial in the direction of good

news? Why not let Heaven retune your heart now ...!" "No," I said. "No, what?"

"No, 1 don't want it." "Don't want God's word?

Or Channel 5?"
"Neither. Either. I do not want to receive God's word and I do not want to receive more television. In a sense, you know, we are all like off switches. We can all turn ourselves off and go and do

something more useful." You get a free gift if you let me retune you to Channel

"A free gift from Channel

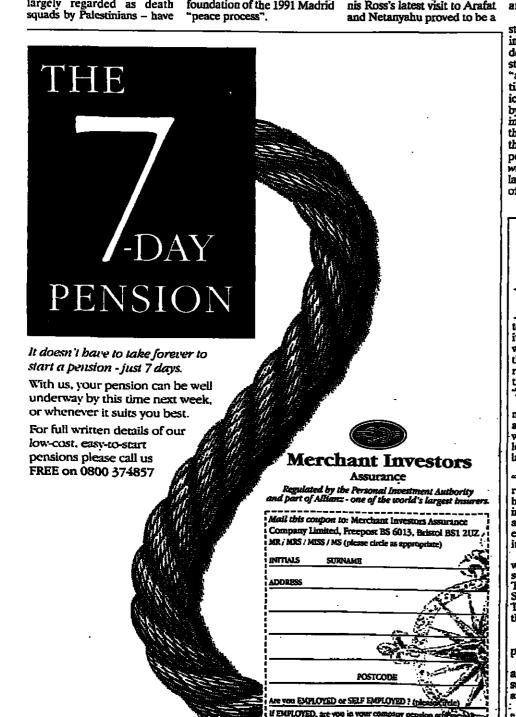
"Yes. Some perfume."
"What kind of perfume?"
"Chanel No 5, of course!" He roared with laughter. He roared alone. Never swap jokes with a salesman, that's my motto. I started to close the door again. He bade me reluctant farewell and started to retreat. I opened the door again. He stopped.

"As a matter of interest." I said, "tell me one thing. Why didn't you diversify a little further and take the golden opportunity to do sor canvassing for one of the parties in the election?"

"And?" "We decided there were

"We did think of that," he

some things we wouldn't sink Fair enough.



## Labour's offer to Sinn Fein was not naïve nor a gaffe

A il the main parties this week will expend time, tens of thousands of words, and a great deal of energy proving how when in government they would shape events – and virtually none on how events will shape them. Yet it's the second that may prove, at least initially, the greater question. Just think of how the decisions that will bear down most immediately on an incoming Labour government will be less about changing Britain than responding to an external and fast-moving set of circumstances over which they have only limited control, with which any party in power would have to deal, and of which no potential Labour cabinet member has any ministerial experi-ence: the hand-over of Hong Kong: a European agenda dramatised by the imminence of the Amsterdam summit, the pace of monetary union, and the 1998 British presidency of the EU; and, perhaps sharpest of all, Northern Ireland.

Mo Mowlam's observation, in a BBC Radio Ulster interview at the weekend, that there would be a "high possibility" of Sinn Fein joining inter-party talks when they resume on 3 June if they called a ceasefire now, is already being used by her critics as evidence that Tony Blair's Northern Ireland spokeswoman doesn't under-stand this simple truth - and thinks that by waving a wand she can wish peace on North-ern Ireland. It really demonstrates quite the opposite. For all the gibes from Unionists and the political right about her

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"naïvety", Dr Mowlam's remarks don't wash. She didn't make new policy. Nor did she modify a key condition that she and Blair have already made clear: for a post-ceasefire Sinn Fein to enter talks, there would have to be evidence that the IRA had ceased for a significant period surveillance and targeting opera-tions. And once a decision had been taken to admit them, the republicans would have to sign up unequivocally to the Mitchell principles, which include renunciation of violence as a means of achieving their ends and a progressive hand-over of arms during the talks. Instead, Dr Mowlam's remarks remind the republicans first that Labour, like the present government, would ideally like to see Sinn Fein in talks, and second, that if they are to have any chance of joining them early the IRA would do well to start its ceasefire now. Indeed, she was explicit in saying that a ceasefire in - say - mid-May would not be early enough to justify Sinn Fein's inclusion in the talks by 3 June. She didn't consult Tony Blair before her interview, because she didn't have to: strikingly, moreover, Downing Street and the Northern Ireland Office did not, after a period of silent hesitation, join in the denunciation. In other words, Dr Mowlam knew

exactly what she was saying.

This is more typical than her detractors allow. There has been speculation both outside - and more covertly within - her own party over whether Dr Mowlam would in fact be Blair's first Northern Ireland Secretary. Her invariably male critics like to point to a mildly gaffe-sprinkled past before she took the job. A Blair loyalist from the very first, they like to mutter, but is she quite up to it? A good deal of such speculation is based on a kind of subliminal sexism: Northern Ireland is boys' stuff, it seems to say. How could a woman, especially in as un-PC a society as Northern Ireland, be Major has bequeathed to his successor.



Donald Macintyre

It is now pretty certain that Tony Blair would appoint Mo Mowlam as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

that alone is quite an achieve-ment. And she has also impressed by her energy, her seriousness, her detailed under-standing of the brief's mind-bending complexities and the bending complexities and the frequency of her trips to the province. It's now pretty well certain that Blair would indeed appoint her, and probably give her the unflashy but skilful Welshman Paul Murphy as her political minister of state. So far, so good. But the fact that Dr Mowlam is indeed well up to the job doesn't mean, as she knows better than anyone, that an incoming Labour gov-erument has a magic solution. It suits Martin McGuiness, as he did yesterday, to imply that Tony Blair will be a much eas-ier touch than John Major. But that underestimates not just

installed at Hillsborough as a real live Secretary of State? But

she has dropped few, if any, clangers in Northern Ireland;

given the extreme sensitivity of every political statement there,

Blair and Dr Mowlam but also their understanding of the formidable obstacles in the way of even of a brand new govern-ment trying to make a fresh start. It's true that if Labour had a big majority, it could not be held prisoner by the Ulster Unionists in Parliament. But that's not the Unionists' only leverage: inclusive talks mean little or nothing if they don't include the Ulster Umonists. And while the UUP leader, David Trimble, has not gone as far as the DUP's Ian Paisley in saying he would never sit down with Sinn Fein, he has set a

series of formidable conditions, including decommissioning of arms as a precondition of talks.

The Ulster Unionists' strength - relative to that of the DUP - after the general election, and in the local elections which follow, could yet decide how full a part Mr Trimble's party will play in the talks. The more ground Pais-ley gains, the bleaker the outlook may prove to be. Drumcree looms in July, and while yes-terday's peaceful march in the Lower Ormean was a tentative sign of hope, it could turn once again into a show of the sort of Orange strength that could yet be deployed if a Labour government were ever tempted to bypass them: the party's folk memory is still haunted by the 1974 Ulster Workers' strike that was faced by Merlyn Rees three months after coming into office. Nor are the republicans' inteations utterly clear, for all Mr McGninness's smooth words yesterday. Some ministers had expected the IRA to declare a ceasefire a few months before polling day to put a fragile gov-ernment on the spot: the fact that they didn't may indicate that there is still a powerful faction in favour of shunning dialogue.

One possibility is that the IRA will wait to see, if Labour wins, what Dr Mowlam does about potential confidence-building issues dear to nationalist hearts - such as transfers of prisoners, responsibility for Bloody Sunday, and the detention of Roisin McAliskey - all of which she has said she will consider in office. And even if they call a ceasefire after that, it could be that, as the events of the past three years demonstrate, this would be only the beginning. The only certainty is this not just Dr Mowlam but Tony Blair is committed to trying to revive the peace process. Blair speaks about it more in private than in public, but it is now clear that he sees Northern Ireland among his highest priorities. That much John

# New crime law, old police culture

by Patricia Wynn Davies

"completely different mindset". That was how Dr Eric Shepherd, the who first cast doubt on the Bridgewater murder convictions, last week summed up the real, as opposed to the theoretical, world of police

investigations.

Dr Shepherd, an adviser to both police and defence lawyers, was spotlighting the potentially lethal mixture of the prevailing police culture and the new regime for restricting the new regime for restricting the disclosure of evidence in the 1996 Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act, which comes into effect today, following the minimum of opposition in Parliament. The biggest test for the members of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, the new procession of institute watchdoor. miscarriage of justice watchdog which also begins work today, is whether they understand that cultural message. And the biggest test of that will be their approach to re-investigations, particularly the extent to which they will be content to allow the police to continue investigating

Just as the Bridgewater case showed just how poor successive police inquiries were at uncovering a miscarriage of justice, the 1996 Act (which in most cases lets the investigating police officer decide what is disclosed to defence solicitors) is a potent argument for a fundamental change of attitude. The members of the commission should consider what Dr Shepherd and Roger Ede, sec-retary to the Law Society's criminal law committee, have to say about the cultural question.

"The community and the

courts," they write in their book Active Defence, published last week, "are led to believe that the evidence presented in cases by the prosecution, and upon which they rely, is the product of a quality investigative service rendered by police officers, civilian support staff and forensic scientists who are professionally trained, who are subject to supervision and quality controls, who have open minds, who are committed to exposing to the prosecution and the defence the gaps and anomalies in the police investigation, the police representation of the case and the prosecution evi-dence. The reality does not support the belief. What is presented to the court in all too many cases is a complex, collaborative illusion.2

The truth, they say, is that many police officers and even forensic scientists are untrained for their investigative tasks, there is no real supervision, there are no real quality controls, and there are strong group pressures on police officers to do what they have always done - attach criminality to the suspect in the frame. In a climate where "zero tolerance" extends only to crimi-

nality, and not to deficiencies in

Because the Act ignores the real world of police investigations, in effect expecting a police officer to reveal weaknesses in his own case, a supine Criminal Cases Review Commission could ensure that future miscarriages go undetected. So

result of one of the most effec-

tive lobbying campaigns by the

police - leaves officers to make

key decisions about the disclo-

sure of material to the defence

at the very time they are build-

ing a case for the prosecution.

But the mindset in the police

station, which views the defence

as a hindrance to the conviction

of the guilty rather than a safe-

guard against getting it wrong,

will the commission be content

to simply hand over investiga-

tions to police officers? Or will

it appreciate that requiring

is very different.

of the alleged transactions between Mr Hamilton and Mr Payed: whether or

not cash was passed in envelopes stuffed with £50 notes. Mr Hamilton

says that Mr Fayed and three aides are

lying when they say this. The electors of Tatton would not know whom to

should concentrate on two, simple

charges - that the Tatton MP had lied

to Michael Heseltine, the Deputy

Prime Minister, and that he had

engaged in a fraud at the expense of

the Inland Revenue. Either one is so

devastating, if true, that everything

else could be ignored. Neither

requires the evidence of Mr Fayed.

On the question of the lie, we have

The Guardian's transcript of Mr

Hamilton's evidence to Sir Gordon

time, Mr Heseltine] has accepted

Counsel put to Mr Hamilton that

Instead, an anti-sleaze candidate

change. The 1996 Act - the case constructed by their peers calls for a change in the professional habits of a lifetime? Do the commission's members accept that it is the sys-

temic failure by the police and the prosecution to disclose evidence inconvenient to their case which has caused the most serious miscarriages of justice over the past 20 years? Are they alive to the re-introduction of a new culture of non-disclosure? With one or two exceptions -

such as Dr James MacKeith, consultant forensic psychiatris at the Maudsley hospital and an expert in false confessions - the membership of the commission has not inspired confidence. The chairman, Sir Frederick Crawford, is a former plasma scientist and university administrator and is probably better known for his Fiona King is a former senior the justice system, there is no police officers conducting a Crown prosecutor; Laurence

reason to expect that culture to re-investigation to dismantle a Elks is a solicitor who used to

a Civil Service Commissioner

specialise in takeovers: David Kyle is another senior Crown prosecutor and former government lawyer; John Leckey has been HM Coroner for Greater Belfast since 1992; Jill Fort, a barrister, is an immigration adjudicator and chairman of a VAT tribunal: Baden Skitt was an assistant commissioner with the Metropolitan Police; John Knox, an accountant, was deputy director of the Serious Fraud Office until last year: Karamiit Singh is

and former member of the Police Complaints Authority: Leonard Leigh is professor of criminal law at the London School of Economics.

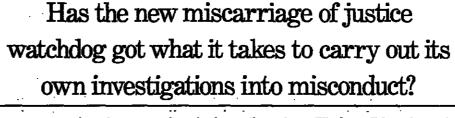
The Home Office was pleased to announce the inclusion of three "lay" members when the long-awaited list was unveiled in January. What experience will they bring? Edward Weiss chairs Lloyd's Syndicate Loss Reviews and is a former director of Chubb, the security firm; Anthony Foster is a former chief executive of IC1 Chlorochemicals; Barry Capon is a recently retired council chief executive. No one is questioning the integrity of any of the members, but where is the

expert for the defence? How many of the members are aware of the huge disparity in resources and investigative powers between the police and the defence? How many understand the increasing difficulty in getting adequate legal aid to deconstruct the case theory?

Paradoxically, one solution would be to take a cue from the world from which some of these commission members are drawn. When things go awry in the City, the Department of Trade and Industry can appoint senior QCs and accountants, equipped with powers to demand answers, to investigate alleged wrong-doings. The appointment of similarly armed senior barristers and solicitors, independent of the police or any other government agency, to ask the questions would be one way of building confidence in the system. But the commission's news release last week did not make encouraging reading, highlighting those powers it does not have, but which the police could exercise on its behalf, rather than those it has.

Yet we have now a machinery for examining miscarriages that for the first time is independent of government. The commission will be empowered to use the police for a re-investigation, but not obliged to; it will be able to exert, if it chooses, hands-on control of a re-investigation; it has wide powers, if it chooses to use them, to call for the disclosure of material, which the defence and even the prosecution may never have seen - and disclose it to the applicant.

Here is the opportunity for an independent body to effec-tively challenge the deep resistance of the system to admitting it may have been wrong. And since the passing of its mirror image, the 1996 Act, never has there been such a clear need to do so. Has this commission got what it takes?



# The voters of Tatton can now judge

uppose that Neil Hamilton, sup-ported by his local Conservative association, does not yield to pressure to retire and actually fights the general election in the Tation constituency. And suppose that the Labour and the Liberal Democratic candidates really do withdraw in favour of a single, independent, antisleuze candidate, as they promise to do. Can we imagine what such an election would be like?

Mr Hamilton's first instinct, I assume, would be to try to conduct a normal campaign. He would stand pat on the Conservative manifesto, be would extol the Government's economic success and he would demonstrate the virtues of Tory policies for law and order, education, Europe and so on. He would say that the Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates had stood down precisely because they feared debating such

I cunnot believe that such an approach would carry Mr Hamilton very far. The electors of Tatton can learn as much as they wish to know about these matters through the national media. Their response to Mr Hamilton would surely be "Yes, but ", and so he would straightaway lose the first skirmish and be forced to fight on the ground his enemies had

Mr Hamilton would then, I imagchusen. ine, continue with his tactic of complaining about the way in which his evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, had been presented by The Guardian. He would repeatedly state that The Guardian's reports were



**Andreas** Whittam Smith

An antisleaze candidate should concentrate on the two charges that do not require the evidence of Mohamed Al Fayed

"selective and were manipulated to show my guilt", and that the tran-scripts of Mohamed Al Fayed's evidence indicated that he was "motivated by hatred for me and revealed that there is no independent corroboration for his allegations".

He would rail at trial by newspapers and call in evidence the entrapment of fellow Tory MP Piers Merchant by a 17-year-old night club hostess, financed by The Sun. Mr Hamilton would position himself as the victim of injustice calling for impartial treatment.

But would an appeal for fair play

work? After all, it is commonplace that when serious accusations are made, the person concerned may have to stand aside. In the case of criminal charges, the accused may have to await trial in prison; and where professional misconduct is alleged, the person concerned is usually suspended from his or her duties while an investigation is carried out. Moreover, Mr Hamilton has taken steps to correct the record. In the Sunday Telegraph at the weekend, he published excerpts from the evidence given to Sir Gordon Downey by his chief accuser. Mr Fayed, which he believed were favourable to his cause. Two leaks may not make a right, but again I fancy the electors of Tatton will

respond to Mr Hamilton: "Yes, but..."
Pretty quickly, therefore, Mr Hamilton would find that the election campaign in Tatton would focus on the transcripts of his and Mr Fayed's evidence to the Downey inquiry.

Where would an anti-sleaze candi-

and Mr Hamilton's letter to The Times last Saturday, in which he adds a statement he made that The Guardian omitted. A Cabinet Office memo notes that Mr Hamilton has given Mr Heseltine an absolute assurance that he had no financial relationship with Mr Green [the political lobbyist] and the President of the Board of Trade [at the

he did have such a financial relationship. Mr Hamilton replied; "I did not mention the commission payments when I spoke to Mr Heseltine ... polities is a rough game ... I knew that

if there were to be another cause for adverse media comment against me ... it could be used as a very big stick with which to beat me and to cause my resignation to take place." What did date lay most emphasis? Probably not (repeat, not) on the most harid aspect

The Guardian miss out? Mr Hamilton's further statement that he was "satisfied in my own mind that there was no deliberate misleading of" Mr Heseltine.

So there we have it: Mr Hamilton misled the Deputy Prime Minister, but not "deliberately". He was either a fool or a liar.

As to whether a tax fraud was committed, The Guardian extracts indicate that the MP's tax return for 1988-89 showed as an expense (ie an offset) the cost of a flight (£1,430) which in fact had been paid not by him but by Mr Greer. What was Mr Hamilton's response? Perhaps his weakest in the whole saga: "my accountant ... prepares my tax return". Yes, but the taxpayer must sign the tax return, stating that the "information I have given is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief". Mr Hamilton knows how solemn is this undertaking; he trained as a barrister specialising in

In my picture of the Tatton election, with an anti-sleaze candidate in the field against the sitting MP, the issue of whether bribes were taken to represent certain people in Parliament and in their dealings with government would remain in the background. That question could wait until publication of the full Downey report and deliberation by the new House of Commons. The anti-sleaze candidate would not seek to usurp that process, nor wish to appear as if he or she were the candidate of Mr Fayed. Instead, equally crucial questions relating to the honesty of Mr Hamilton would be tackled head-on: is he a liar? is he a We conduct patient research into



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## Shireen Akbar

Visitors to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London this summer will experience a stunning new creation; a giant Mughal pavilion of embroidered panels made by groups of women inspired by the muse-um's South Asian collection. The creator of this project, Shireen Akbar, will be rememhered both for a unique range of artistic achievements and for the love and pride with which she nurtured and motivated South Asian women in Britain.

She was at home in three cities - London, Dhaka and Calcutta – and in three languages: Bengali. English and Urdu. She revelled in her internationalism and the cultural fusion which she fostered. Her life and work was a celebration of the richness of South Asian - especially Bengali - art and culture, not as a pure and closed form but interacting with, changing and being changed by, other cultures.

She was born Shireen Hasib, in Calcutta, a member of the ily which also produced Begum Rokeya Hussain (1880-1923), a for women's emancioation in Bengal. Rokeya's legacy under-pinned Shireen's fierce commitment to justice and to women. In 1957 the family moved to East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, where Shireen completed her MA and taught at the University of Dhaka until she came to Britain in 1968

to study English at Cambridge. After teaching in schools and adult education Akbar was employed by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) youth service in 1978 as a youth and community worker with Bengali girls and young women in Tower Hamlets, where her vision and powers of alchemy have made ents' homeland and for their perhaps the most lasting impact. mothers' crafts.

Her highly original and inled her to develop a focus on arts with the British art world. The first of these was an embroidery project through which groups of self-sufficient. girls created glorious embroi-

dered banners of the Bengali alphabet, displayed in the Whitechapel Gallery, in east London, early in 1979.

Recognising that in a racist climate the cultural heritage of the East End's growing South Asian community was being undervalued, Akbar established a learning resource for ILEA schools. Traveiling to remote villages in India and Bangladesh she purchased a remarkable collection of traditional household items and toys from rural markets and craftspeople. The artefacts inspired pottery and other art work by children of all ethnic backgrounds in Tower Hamlets schools and led to an exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute in 1983.

Akbar worked closely with the Whitechapel Gallery in 1979 to mount an "Arts of Bengal" exhibition which gave a new perspective to the presence of the migrant community from Bangladesh. In 1988 she creat-ed "Woven Air", the exhibition cultured Bengali Muslim fam- at the Whitechapel of woven and embroidered textiles from Bangladesh. "Woven Air" both pioneering writer and worker celebrated the ancient traditions of Jamdani muslin weaving and Naksha Kantha (traditional quilts) embroidery and brought them up to date with the presence in the gallery of working weavers from Bangladesh.

As well as working with curators and collectors around the world to create this exhibition, Akbar ensured that local children gained as much as possible from their introduction to the arts of Bangladesh. A book of poems, Kanthas in My Head (1988), produced by children from a local primary school showed how the embroideries had inspired them with love and respect both for their par-

Alongside the Whitechapel novative approach to the work exhibition Akbar arranged a selling exhibition at Liberty's, enand a series of increasingly am- abling the work of the women's bitious collaborative ventures co-operative with she was in-linking the Asian community volved in Bangladesh to gain international recognition and thus more women to become elf-sufficient.

nities. Joining the museum in a new life, sustained by the sup— The exquisite panels which will

The next great adventure the week of a devastating cy-port of her daughter and her form the tent have been em-



Akbar with visiting schoolchildren in the Nehru Gallery of Indian Art at the Victoria & Albert Museum, Londor

clone which killed thousands of

delta dwellers in Bangladesh,

she made an instant impact by

organising an evening sitar con-

cert to fund a cyclone shelter.

On this occasion, as in so many

she created an atmosphere of

Shireen Akbarwas a beauti-

ful woman who loved to dress

well, making the most of the tex-

tiles with which she worked and

enjoying dramatic jewellery.

Her fragile beauty never hid the fire within her, whose sparks in-

spired and sometimes alarmed

those around her. She had au-

tocratic charm which she used

to great effect to bring her ex-

traordinary dreams into reality.

Akbar undertook the painful

When her marriage ended

of the gatherings she organised

enchantment

Photograph: V & A

many loving friends around the world. This journey was inter-rupted when she developed breast cancer in early 1994. With characteristic courage she spoke of her experience in Bengali newspapers and television, determined to increase Asian women's awareness of breast cancer and treatments and break the stigma of "women's cancer". She fought hard to recover and was full of life and wit, projects and plans.

The last of Shireen Akbar's magical achievements, the Mughal Tent project, brought together all the strands of her life: her passions for Indian art and cultural synthesis; her commitment to women; her determination to achieve the seemingly impossible and her ability to break boundaries.

broidered by women's groups from Tower Hamlets to Somerset, Madras to South Africa. Many have been created by groups of South Asian women with whom Shireen Akbar worked at the museum, most of whom had never entered such a place before. Akbar inspired them to see the relevance of the Nehru Gallery's collection of South Asian art and artefacts to their own lives and identities and to create their own richly worked and beautiful pieces in response. The result is a unique celebration of women, life and

> **Caroline Adams** and Annie Rae

Shireen Nishat Hasib, educationist: born Calcutta 30 July 1944; married 1968 Anwar Akbar (one daughter; marriage dissolved); died London 7 March 1997.

## George Milner

George Milner was a leading an-alytical chemist who made out-standing contributions to his discipline both scientifically and professionally. Most of his career was spent in public service, mainly in the sphere of atomic energy, where he became head in 1958 of the Actinide Analy-sis Group at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, until his retirement in 1983.

At Harwell Milner led a team of analysts that built an international reputation for the quality and innovativeness of its work in the exacting field of atomic energy. His judgement and meticulousness set the stan-dards which led to success in characterising the materials essential to the developing industry.

Not only was it essential to analyse chemically many proto-type nuclear fuels, before and after irradiation, it was also important to characterise the wide variety of metals, alloys, ceramics and fluids used in the construction and operation of nuclear reactors and plant. Solutions were needed that could be applied, with safety, to the analysis of radioactive materials, including thorium, wanium, plutonium and higher activides. and involved operations in glove boxes and high-activity shielded cells.

As analytical chemistry advanced technically, the methods and instrumentation introduced into the Actinide Analysis Group kept pace with modern standards, ever improving over the years, which produced a sound foundation that lives on today in the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and its fledgling, privatised offsboot, AEA Technology plc.

Milner's personal forte was in the field of electrochemical analysis, particularly the development of polarography and coulometry, electrical methods of identifying elements and measuring them quantitively. While the former has been largely displaced by more modern methods of trace element analysis, the latter continues to be an important technique for the high accuracy determination of plutonium which features today in the control of nuclear materials for International Safe-

guards purposes.
In 1957, Milner published an authoritative and comprehensive book, Principles and Applications of Polarography and Other Related Techniques. He also co-authored Coulometry in Analytical Chemistry (1967), with the late G. Phi member of his team.

He took advantage of spectrophotometry (a method of measurement using colour) in its early days for trace element analysis, as well as, separation methods based on solvent extraction and chromatography as they developed. While the confidential nature of his work often prevented its publication openly, his researches on the analysis of exotic and less common elements appeared in relevant scientific journals, and their value won him awards and built his acknowledged reputa-

tion as a leader in his field. Milner was the son of a master builder. He was born in 1918, at Rossington in West Yorkshire, and was brought up in

Benno Premsela, window dresser, died 27 March, aged 76. Gave over the windows of the Amsterdam store De Bijenkorf as a platform for local photographers and artists. An early

nearby Hatfield. He was educated at Doncaster Grammar School followed by Sheffield University where he gained a first class degree in science. His interest in both chemistry and physics led to Membership of the Institute of Physics in 1947 and establishment as a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1948.

(pchers)

During the Second World War, Milner worked for the Admiralty in the new Bragg Laboratory of the Naval Ordnance Inspection Laboratory in Sheffield, applying himself to the development of new approaches in the analysis of metals and alloys. In 1946 he was appointed as a Lecturer in Chemistry at what

is now Hull University. There he aided Professor Brynmor Jones, who later became Vice-Chancellor, to set up the chemistry laboratories. His association with atomic energy began in 1948 when he returned to the Bragg Laboratory to work on analytical developments for the national programme, As a consequence, in 1951 he joined the Analytical Chemistry Branch of the Chemistry Division at AERE, Harwell. He travelled widely presenting the work of his group to scientific bodies here and abroad, building his international reputation. His eminence as an analytical chemist was also recognised by the Society for Analytical Chemistry in 1972 when they awarded him their prestigious Gold

Medal, their highest accolade. The profession of analytical chemistry owes much to Milner. Up to the amalgamation of the Society of Analytical Chemistry with the Chemical Society in 1975, he served the former both as its Treasurer and its final President. He played a central role in the amalgamation process that unified the nation's societies devoted to

chemistry. During the initial "trial" period, the SAC continued to exist long enough to celebrate its Centenary under Milner's presidency. On final amalgamation, he ensured that the SAC's special responsibility for promoting Analytical Chemistry
was guaranteed in the future by transferring its assets into the new Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund. This now supports much university research, as well as the promotion of the profession, to its lasting benefit.

On the formation of the Analytical Division of the new amaigamated society. was invited to serve as its first President. After retirement he continued to give voluntary service to the profession and to the end was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Analytical Methods Trust.

As a young man, Milner was an active sportsman representing his school and university at rugby football, and playing squash and tennis. In later years, he found relaxation through walking and gardening.

J. W. McMilian George William Colin Milner, analytical chemist: born Rossington. West Yorkshire 20 January 1918; married 1947 Irene Cressey (one daughter); died Abingdon, Oxfordshire 16 February 1997.

Carroll James Jnr, disc jockey, died Silver Spring, Maryland, 24 March, aged 60. The first disc jockey to play a Beatles record on US radio: "I Want to Hold Your Hand", on WWDC, 17 December 1963.

## Otto John

Britain's South Asian commu- but creative process of building

It was something of an international sensation when Otto John turned up on 11 August 1954 in East Berlin.

He had gone missing on 20 July while attending a commemoration of the anti-Hitler July plot of 1944. Good-looking, well-built, smartly tailored, charming and blond, John, then 45 years old, looked like a 1930s film actor. He was in fact the head of West Germany's internal security organ, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz or BfV.) At a press conference held in East Berlin John attacked West Germany, warning that the Nazis were again in the ascendancy.

His outpourings were a bitter blow to Konrad Adenauer's government in Bonn, at a time when many abroad were still suspicious of the rapidly developing West German state. However, they were very useful to the Soviets, less sure of themselves after the death of Stalin in 1953 and hoping to gather to- He had spoken at the press con- titude to an anti-Hitler gov-



John: Imprisoned for treason Photograph: Camera Press

gether anti-Adenauer "national" conservatives to opt for a more pro-Soviet solution to the division of Germany. In December 1955, John reappeared in the West claiming he had escaped. He also claimed he had been drugged by the West Berlin medical practitioner Wolfgang Wohlgemuth and takon to East Berlin against his will.

ference because he feared for ernment. He was certainly a his safety. John's version of brave man who risked his life on was tried for treason and sentenced, in December 1956, to four years' imprisonment.

was "Traffic Art", an exhibition

of rickshaw paintings at the Mu-seum of Mankind in 1988. The

streets of Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, although choking under

traffic fumes, are a mobile

gallery of naïve art. The city's

rickshaws are decorated with

richly inventive paintings: tigers

and jackals in scenes of politi-

cal allegory: reflections of glob-

alisation from Tower Bridge to

Manhattan; rural idylls and film

fantasies. In 1994 the exhibition

travelled to Fukuoka Art Mu-

seum in Japan, where Shireen

In 1991 Akbar was appoint-

ed by the Victoria and Albert

Museum as South Asian Arts

Education Officer, working to build links between the mu-

seum's Nehru Gallery and

Akhar acted as guest curator.

Born in Marburg in 1909, the son of a minor civil servant. Otto John studied law in Berlin in the 1920s. His talent and an ability to make contacts with the right people led to his ap-pointment as a leading legal adviser to the German airline Lufthansa in 1937. Although a ladies' man, John

did not marry until 1949, when he married a singer seven years his senior. Thus he was free in the Nazi era to pursue his risky political interests. John and his brother Hans John, also a lawyer, who worked in the Air Ministry, were involved in the anti-Nazi military resistance before the Second World War. Otto used his position at Lufthansa to fly to neutral Spain and Portugal to sound out the Western Allies on their at-

events was not believed and he any number of occasions relaying the messages from the plotters to the Western powers. When the putsch against Hitler finally took place, on 20 July 1944, Otto John managed to leave the headquarters of the plotters in Bendler Strasse, Berlin, just before the revolt collapsed. Four days later he got

to neutral Spain on a Lufthansa flight - his brother was not so

lucky. Later, under the name of Oskar Jürgens, John worked for the British Secret Intelligence Service. He was flown from Lisbon to Britain where, unknown to John, his controller, Kim Philby, was working for the Soviet Union. Philby, following Soviet instructions, had no interest in the German resistance's

John helped the British interrogating German officers at the Bridgend prison camp. In 1949, he assisted the British in the controversial prosecution of a blind eye to dossiers on many

Field Marshal von Manstein. This placed him on the blacklist of the surviving Wehrmacht officers, including General Reinhard Gehlen. In the same year the new President of the Federal Republic (West Germany), Professor Theodor Heuss, urged John to help in rebuilding his shattered country by working for the new state.

With British influence being brought in play, John was ap-pointed President of the BfV in 1950. Gehlen was already installed as an American protégé in charge of collecting external intelligence material, especial-ly in the Soviet bloc. Gehlen was intelligence service on the East front. John was an amateur who wanted to avoid his office becoming a kind of secret police, let alone another Gestapo.

John soon had a reputation for being a dilettante and a drunk. It could not have been easy for him - Adenauer turned

former Nazis who were recruited to construct the new state and its economy. Many in Germany at that time regarded the July plotters as traitors who had stabbed the fighting troops in the back, although later they were to be regarded as heroes who had saved the honour of Germany.

After his release from prison, John chose to live in Austria for the remaining years of his life, all the time protesting his innoceace. On five occasions he sought to get German courts to clear his name. His last attempt was in 1995. He failed and, officially at any rate, died a professional, having worked a traitor. The full truth we are as head of the German army's never likely to know. Neither the statements of former KGB officers nor the opening of the East German archives have revealed the full story.

> David Childs Otto John, secret agent: born Marburg an der Lahn, Germany 1909; married 1949; died Inns-

bruck, Austria 26 March 1997. | activist for Dutch gay rights.

## Michael Braun

The launch of the Titanic musical on Broadway has already in-spired a flotilla of showbiz folklore which the unexpected death of Michael Braun joins. Braun, found dead in his apartment on the first day of rehearsals, was prominently featured on the musical's advertising as one of its two producers but, if his exact role now seems ambiguous, it is nothing compared to the machinations of Braun's own mythic existence.

A Zelig of the counter-culture, Braun might have copyrighted the phrase "Been there, done that". Whilst he had lived everywhere and seemingly met. interviewed or cohabited with every famous figure of the

late 20th century, he also had specific claims to fame. The Beatles penned "Paperback Writer" about him, he was Roman Polanski's companion and comforter during the long evening when he was called from California to be told of Sharon Tate's murder, the producer Julia Phillips (author of You'll Never Eat Lunch in This Town Again) considered him the most enigmatic, privately wealthy man in Hollywood, but he was also a homeless academic, penniless flaneur and eclectic expert on everything from international finance to 19th-century English literature. Braun was born in New York City, the son of a lawyer (sub-

sequently never his favoured breed), and may have attended the prestigious Walden School though a Bronx high school seems more probable. He had an affection for Ivy League education not necessarily dependent on his own attendance, for though he supposedly graduated from Harvard in 1958, that institution's records seem patchy on the point. Interviewing the Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver in his African exile, Braun made clear his belief in the Ivy League's redemptive potential, repeatedly exclaiming: "You don't have to do this, you could still get into Harvard." Likewise it is not clear whether his son attended Oxford, or exists.

What can be authenticated is that Braun first travelled the world as cabin boy and found himself in London in the early Sixties as assistant to Stanley Kubrick, who had moved there to make Lolita and Dr Strangelove. He then started to work as a journalist for the Sunday Times and the Observer at the height of their reputation, and in this capacity followed a new band called the Beatles on their first British tour. Braun became friendly with them and published the earliest Beatles book, the tour diary Love Me Do!, republished by Penguin in 1995.

Remaining part of the British music scene and attendant 'Swinging London" phenome-

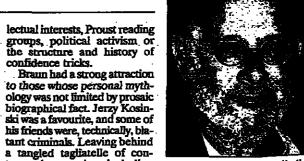
na, Braun started working for Roman Polanski, though as always his precise office remained undefined. As a globetrotting writer

Braun covered all the quintes-sential trouble spots of the era, from Vietnam to South Africa, Russia to Cuba, but hardly limited himself to war and revolution, becoming friendly with Borges and Nabokov as well as countless stars in the entertainment firmament. This led to his relocation in 1970s Los Angeles, a dangerous time and place for anyone genetically inclined to recreational narcotics. During that legendary coke decade Braun was busy, or not, with a quintessential project of the period, producing a film, The Secret Life of Plants (1975). Stevie Wonder's part in this was described as: "the most curious album in Wonder's career, ostensibly a soundtrack for a film few people saw, if indeed it was ever released".

Seventies Hollywood may now be the stuff of glamorous nostalgia but it was less constructive for those living there, and Braun's health - not to mention reputation - was probably permanently dented by this epoch. Braun returned to New York, living by all ac-counts in a homeless shelter whilst fraternising with some of the wealthiest American heirs and pursuing his endless intel-

lectual interests. Proust reading groups, political activism or the structure and history of confidence tricks. Braun had a strong attraction

biographical fact. Jerzy Kosinski was a favourite, and some of his friends were, technically, blatant criminals. Leaving behind a tangled tagliatelle of contractual mysteries, including whether he was 55 or 60, Braun was buried in his ubiquitous sweat clothes surrounded by chanting Buddhist monks from his sister's ashram. Appropri-ately enough several fist fights broke out round the body of this arch manipulator, masterful



provocateur and "unknown egend in his time".

Adrian Dannati Michael Braun, journalist and pro-ducer: born New York 28 April 1936;

died New York 27 January 1997.

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## Birthdays

Mr George Baker, actor and writer, 66; Mr Cynog Dalis MP, 59; Mr David Davies, chairman and chief executive, Johnson Matthey, 57; The Rev Nornan Drummond, Scottish Governor, BBC, and Chairman, Broadcasting Council for Scotland, 45; Mr Alex Falconer, MEP, 57; Professor Rodcrick Floud, Provost, London Guild-hall University, 55; Sir Anthony Gill, chairman, Docklands Light Railway, 67; Mr David Gower, cricketer, 40; Sir Nicholas Henderson, former diplomat, 78; Miss Gaie Johnson Houghton, jockey, 56; The Earl of Ilchester, managing director, Coun-ty Border Newspapers, 77; Baroness McFarlane of Liandaff, professor emeritus, Department of Nursing, Manchester University, 71; Professor

Maxwell McGlashan, chemist, 73; Miss Ali MacGraw, actress, 59; Sir William Macpherson of Chury, for-mer High Court judge, 71; Mr William Manchester, writer and Pro-fessor Emeritus, Wesleyan University, 75; Maj-Gen Giles Mills, former resident Governor, Ibwer of London, 75; Professor Sir Dimitri Obolensky, historian, 79; Mrs Marie Patterson, former TUC president, 63; Miss Jane Powell, singer and actress, 68; Mr Charles H. Price, former US ambassador to the UK, 66; Mr Steve Race, musician and broadcaster, 76; Dr Richard Repp, Master of St Cross College, Oxford, 61; Miss Debbie Reynolds, actress, 65; Mr Bryan Robertson, writer, historian and broadcaster, 72; Mr Arnold Sidebottom, cricketer, 43; Miss Rose-

mary Spencer, Ambassador to the Netherlands, 56; Mr Leonard van Geest, chairman, Littlewoods, 47; Mr Dafydd Wigley MP, 54, Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams, former President, Royal College of Pathologists, 68.

#### Anniversaries

Births: Abbé Prévost (Antoine-François Prévost d'Exiles) writer, 1697; Luigi Schiavonetti, engraver. 1765; Prince Otto Eduard Leopold von Bismarck, statesman, 1815; Ed-win Austin Abbey, painter, 1852; Ferruccio Benvenuto Busoni, musician, 1866: Edmond-Eugène Alexis Ros-tand, playwright, 1868; Sergei Vasilievich Rachmaninov, composer, 1873; Edgar Richard Floratio Wallace, journalist and thriller writer,

1875; Lon (Alonso) Chaney, actor, 1883; Wallace Beery, actor, 1885; Baroness Clementine Ogilvy Spencer-Churchill (Hozler), 1885; Leonard Bloomfield, Hinguist, 1887; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, 1893; Edward Tisse, cinematic director, 1897. Deaths: Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen of France and of England, 1204; Robert III, King of Scotland, 1406; Sigismund I, King of Poland, 1548; Dr John Langhorne, writer, cleric and translator, 1779; writer, cleric and translator, 1779; John Frederick John Frederick Denison Maurice, theologian and founder of Christian Socialism, 1872; Andreas Achen-Schainmin, 1972, Annuezs Arther-bach, landscape and marine painter, 1910; Ex-Emperor Karl Franz Josef of Austria, 1922; John Afkinson, Hobson, comomist, 1940; Ferenc Molnar, playwright, 1952: Lev Davi- Okinawa began when US troops

dovich Landan, physicist, 1968; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculp-tor, 1976. On this day: Britain de-clared war on Prussia, 1806; the title "Commonwealth of Australia" was adopted, 1891; the Territorial Army was founded, 1908; Old Age pensions were first paid (to British subjects over the age of 70), 1909; the Royal Air Force came into being as a sep-arate arm, 1918; Adolf Hitler was sentenced to five years imprisonment, 1924, a Hebrew University was inaugumed by Lord Balfour on Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, 1925; persecution of the Jews in Germany began, 1933; London's Green Balt legisle came into being, 1935; the United States recognised the the France gov-ernment in Spain, 1939; the Battle of

landed there, 1945; electricity un-dertakings in Britain, both private and municipal, were nationalised as the British Electricity Anthonity, 1947; the Soviet Union began a land blockade of Berlin, 1948, Newfoundland, up to this date a separate Dominion, be-came the 10th province of Canada, 1949; the world's first meteorological setellite, Tiros I, was launched by the United States, 1960; in Manila, a disastrous fire destroyed houses covering a wide area, rendering 70,000 homeless, 1971; 590 US pris-oners were released by the North Vietnamese, 1973; in Britain, Purchase Tax and Selective Employment Taxwere abolished, and Value Added Tax (VAT) took their place, 1973;

boundary changes were made in England and Wales, which affected

nearly all counties, 1974; the military side of the Warsaw Pact was dis-banded, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Catharine of Palma, St Gilbert of Caithness, St Hugh of Bonnevaus. St Hugh of Grenoble, St Macarlus ti Wonderworker, St Melito and St Valery or Walaricus.

### Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Drawings (i): drawing in the High Renaissance", 1pm. British Museum: Barrie Cook, "Princely Gifts: coins for presentation and display", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Susan Morris and Alfred Bradley, "April Fool! An Appropriate Programme".

## In the company of fledglings and old family firms off the main Exchange

The killing of the 4.2 share trading facility was one of the more astonishing Stock Exchange decisions of recont Companies do not need a market; they can exist hap-

! Milner

Suddenly a range of companies, which had inhabited the long-established touch with the news flow, backwater share market, and despite strenuous efforts by its the prospect of being cast into difficult.

the prospect of being cast into a share wilderness.

Cometh the crisis, cometh the man, John Jenkins, an old-fashioned jobber who had dealt extensively in the 4.2 market – football clubs were his family's speciality – renaised the Stock Exchange has family's speciality – renaised the Stock Exchange has family's speciality – renaised the Stock Exchange has family and the Stock E created a share-dealing gap which had to be filled.

Exchange decisions of recent Ofex is a mystery. It is difficult for anyone who does not have access to a securities screen to thousands of investors faced own information service, is

pily without one," was the blinkered view.

Well, National Parking Corporation, the National Car Parks and Green Flag group, begged to differ. It moved from 4.2 and is the biggest Ofex

replace the old Unlisted Securities Market.

AlM has certainly exceeded Stock Exchange hopes, illustration the passing the passing of time has required the passing of time has required the passing of time has required the need for a share-dealing facility and brash, start-up groups.

Stock Exchange hopes, illustration the passing of time has required the need for a share-dealing facility and brash, start-up groups. He produced Ofex - Off lustrating the need for a junior have come to the fore.



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

In fifth place is Display IT, worth £85.5m, a young group offering share price and other conversion. It has 22 mar-

Many Ofex companies are not for the squeamish; some constituents feel obliged to issue wealth warnings in their

Yet the fringe market has, so

sent the shares surging from a 27.5p placing to 275p.

Skynet, now much chastened, trades at 48p. Still, Ofex is bound to produce volatile share movements. Motion Media, developing video telephones, and Display IT are two active con-

and Futures Anthority (SFA) probably the Skynet misstarted to investigate a riprogramming performance which thoughts about defining and the Stock Exchange.

AIM. under the supervision of the Stock Exchange.

It is surprising that the Ofex tightening up market con-

iteir observations, will, it is hoped, strengthen controls and add a little sophistication the old 4.2 market gave him a

success has not prompted imitations. There is obviously a

duct.

A revised code of practice is being prepared. The new guidelines, soon to go through the consultative stage with market-users and committee improved asked for registers, and start-up businesses needing access to panies involved asked for nesses needing access to

And last week Bestods, offering a radio paging service for punters, jumped 1,300p to 4,300p on its debut.

Mr Jenkins, company, JL Jenkins, cowns Ofex and provides the market-making facility, dealing with Stock Exchange firms. He keeps a tight grip on proceedings. It is, of courses were first the control of the surprising if attempts were made

Exchange to accommodate the 4.2 waifs and strays.  Today the fledgling share market, started with 45 constituents, has a total capitalisation of more than £2.3bn with more than 150 companies enlisted. A steady  In the fledgling share market, started with 45 constituents, has a total capitalisation of more than £2.3bn with more than 150 companies enlisted. A steady  In the fledgling share market, started with 45 constituents, has a total capitalisation of more than £2.3bn with more than 150 companies enlisted. A steady  In the fledgling share market. But the extinction of the started of the fore.  Rangers, the Glasgow club where Loseph Lewis, the Bahamas-based entrepreneur said to be Britain's richest man, has a 40 per cent interest, has a £210m value, and Arsenal comes in at was dismissive of the need for a jumior lawe come to the fore.  Rangers, the Glasgow club where Loseph Lewis, the Bahamas-based entrepreneur than £100, a PR firm with profits of more than £100, a profit capitalisation of more than £2.3bn with more than 150 companies enlisted. A steady	tight grip on proceedings. H.S. of course, not difficult to get a company on to the fringe market but a vetting panel—accountant, solicitor, fund manager and banker—examine new arrivals.  It would be ironic if Mr stock Exchange member and jobs in a range of shares income any found himself in the fold.  There are already links; his market-making company is a stock Exchange member and jobs in a range of shares income and of the fold.
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# business & cit

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

# Myers set to buy Imry off Barclays

City Editor

One of Britain's leading property developers is set to cash in for a second time on the company that forced Barclays Bank to write-off a record £200m, vicum of the biggest-ever default on a property loan.

Martin Myers is planning to buy imry, one of the bestknown property developers to spring up in the late-1980s

eight years after netting £15m from its sale to a heavily indebted company backed by the bank. Barclays was left owning Imry after Marketchief, the company to which it lent £200m at the peak of the last proper-

ty cycle, collapsed.

As well as the £15m he made in 1989 when he and fellow developer Martin Landau sold Imry for £314m to Marketchief, Myers has struck a secret deal with the bank which will give him a further unspecified

payout on the final unwinding of Imry, which he has managed throughout the various phases of its ownership. It is understood he will receive that incentive

even if he himself is the ultimate buyer of the company. If Mr Myers is successful in his bid to buy what remains of Imry after the sale last month of most of its assets to Rodamco, a Dutch property company. he may stand to make a third fortune from the company if he is successful in building it up and stock market.

The proposed deal would give Mr Myers control of a planned £250m shopping centre development in Southampton, that has yet to be built, and an investment portfolio worth an estimated £118m. Last month, Imry's other assets, including the Shires shopping centre in Leicester and Distillers House, an office block in Hammersmith, were sold to Rodamco for £249m.

made clear that it was only holding Imry for resale under the management of Mr Myers, was originally negotiating a sale of the whole of imry to Rodanco,

Dutch company's UK arm, pulled out only hours before the signing of final contracts. He is understood to have had second thoughts about the value of the Southampton development. Cheisfield, another potential buyer of Imry, also

pulled out of negotiations after due diligence on the Southamp-

A Barclays spokesman would not comment on any incentive payments it plans to make to Mr Myers on the final disposal of but Chris Bartram, head of the Imry nor on whether it was negotiating a sale to him. The bank simply said it was no longer in discussions with Rodamco, which was rumoured to have reopened negotiations over the Imry assets it failed to buy last

Barclays' Imry problem will bring to an end one of the bank's most embarrassing loans.
When Imry was sold to Marketchief it was making profits of only £22m but Barcays was prepared to lend £200m to an ac-

to service its debts. When the assumptions on which Marketchief was premised - falling interest rates and rising asset values which would

quisition vehicle that required

upwards of £50m a year simply

payments - failed to materialise, the company went under. It had been set up with just £5m of equity and more than £300m of

Barclays was the most active bank in the fevered property lending market of the late 1980s, specialising in so-called relationship banking in which it backed such individuals as Gerald Ronson, of Heron International and Speyhawk's Trevor

## Roller-coaster Dow leaves markets braced for turmoil

**David Usborne** and Tom Stevenson

Dealers are bracing themselves for volatile trading today after shares plunged again on Wall Street vesterday. Equities are expected to take their cue from a US market that returned from the shorter American Easter holiday as nervously as it had entered the break.

After a 140-point fall last Thursday in New York, the Dow Jones index fell sharply in early trading vesterday as dealers banked on another rise in American interest rates following last week's quarter-point. increase. The Dow was trading 107.64 points off at 6.632.95 in midday trading, having been 140.8 down at mid-morning.

Shares were especially nervous ahead of economic data this week that could shape percentions about inflation, interest rates and the stock market's Association of Purchasing Mdnagement will be published. while on Friday the Labor Department releases the March. employment report.

The slide resumed immediately after the opening bell yes-. terday, leading to an early activation of computerised trading curbs on the New York

Stock Exchange. It was a simi-lar story of pain elsewhere. The technology-heavy Nasdaq exchange was also hurting badly yesterday - off more than 15 points at midday. The American Stock Exchange composite

index was also down 5.74. Nor was there much help forthcoming from the bond market, where the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond after steadying briefly in early trading, began to climb again. At last Thursday's close, the yield was at 7.08 per cent. its highest level since last

Once bond yields break through the 7 per cent barrier. investors often begin looking towards the bond market and away from equities as the best place for their dollars.

Most analysts continued to attribute the onset of market turbulence to last week's Federal Reserve decision to raise future health. Later today the short-term interest rates by a quarter-point. There is still conhe around the corner.

Fuelling that worry was additional data yesterday pointing to an overly healthy US economy. The Commerce Department reported that Americans' personal income jumped 0.9 per cent in February, the largest gain in nine months.

While spending grew by a

much more modest 0.3 per cent - the smallest gain since for six months - it came after a full

per cent surge in January. The data will keep the market on the defensive," said Peter Cardillo of Westfalia Investments: "If the numbers continue to strengthen, it will raise questions about when the Federal Reserve will raise interest

rates again."
Michael Metz, chief investment strategist at Oppenheimer & Co. said earnings momentum going into the second quarter was another big worry for in-

"As the quarter begins, there will be a lot more concern that earnings will disappoint," Mr Metz said. "I think the market is in a difficult position in which the economy will do very well, interest rates will edge up, and earnings will not follow suit."

In spite of the darkening environment, most Wall Street observers continued to warn against over-reacting. "This has the excuse has been interest rates," remarked Al Goldman of AG Edwards in New York. There has been a realisation the market was short-term overbought and due for a correction." Since its best-ever high of 7.085 on 11 March, the Dow had slipped about 6.5 per cent by

## Sales roar ahead as balmy weather drives DIY fans barmy



Britain's leading DIY retailers have reported buoyant trading over the Easter weekend boosted by the good weather. B&Q, Sainsbury's Homebase and Do-It-All said sales had been better than expected with sales of lawn mowers, garden furniture and painting and decorating equipment all strong. Easter is always a key time for the DIY superstores though retailers had been cautious ahead of this weekend as Easter fell early. "All the signs are that we've had a very good Easter," said Ross McLaren, managing director of Sainsbury's Homebase.

"It has not been a record weekend but sales are up on last year. The good weather has certainly helped." B&Q said sales were up on last year with stores "fantastically busy". Do-It-All in Borehamwood said gardening sales were up 150 per cent on last year. B&Q opened 10 garden centres on Easter Sunday, exploiting a loophole in the Sunday trading legislation. It got round the laws by moving tills and products outside the doors

Photograph: Jason Bye

and said sales had gone "quite well"

#### In Brief

- The Japanese government has announced a ¥380bn (£1.9bn) nescue package designed to kick-start the country's moribund property market, though analysts said the package did not represent a complete solution to the property had debts on Japanese banks books, which are estimated to be worth up to ¥30,000bn. The key part of the reforms is the easing of rules that will allow property held as collateral to be turned into securities to be sold to
- Hammerson is thought to have rejected the idea of a hostile bid for property industry rival MEPC after the two companies abandoned merger talks. Both companies suffered heavily from the effeets of the recession on the commercial property industry and MEPC has struggled to recover as quickly as Hammerson has under new chief executive Ron Spinney. The impetus for the talks is thought to have come from MEPC's leading shareholders, including PDFM.
- Estate agents are at their most optimistic for three years, according to a survey by Birmingham Midshires building society. Four out of five believe the market is gathering pace. Though house prices have steaded in the last six months, they are 10 per cent higher than this time last year. Agents predict a further 6 per cent rise over the next year. Three- and four-bedroom homes are the most popular: One-bedroom properties are hardest to self.
- The chief executive of Testo Personal Finance, the financial services joint venture between Tesco and the Royal Bank of Scotland, is to be Derek Sach, former managing director of 3i Group. Rowley Ager, a director of Tesco, is to be chairman.
- The first quarter of 1997 was the quietest for stock market flotations for several years, according to a survey by KPMG Corporate Finance. Flotations were up from 16 to 20 but generated only £246m, compared with over £26n in the the same period last year. KPMG said uncertainty over the election was partly to blame.
- British Airways has clinched a five-year deal with Ryder to outsource its Ground Fleet Services vehicle management and maintenance work at Heathrow and Gatwick. Most of GFS's staff will move to Ryder and the remainder will take early retirement, vol-untary redundancy or other BA jobs.

## Grocers grab 15% of video and CD market

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

The big supermarket groups have grabbed a 15 per cent share of the UK's music and video sales and could account for a quarter of the market within three years, according to a

The latest issue of UK Retail Report, by retail consultants Corporate Intelligence, says sales of music and video products by the big four super-markets topped £400m last

means Tesco, Sainsbury's, Safeway and Asda saw their share of the UK market rise from 10 per cent in 1995 to 15 per cent

last year. As the grocers cut prices on the biggest-selling chart compact discs and videos, the report says they will continue to exert pressure on rival retailers in the market, particularly WH Smith. Our Price and Boots.

"It is just another example of a product area where the super- and older shoppers for a ma-

year. With the UK entertain- markets are creaming off the jority of their music sales, in conment market worth £2.9bn, that volume end of the market," says trast to specialist shops like Corporate Intelligence's Robert

He points to sectors such as petrol, health and beauty products and books as other examples of the supermarkets' successful drive into non-food

The report says that the retailers most vulnerable to the supermarket's relentless march are WH Smith and Boots. "These stores rely on women

trast to specialist shops like HMV and Virgin," Mr Clark says. "But they do not offer suf-ficient breadth of range or quality of service to differentiate themselves from the crowd."

He adds that Our Price, which still operates from relatively small stores, could suffer for similar reasons.

Specialists such as Tower Records, whose six large stores give it 1.4 per cent of the UK market, should continue to prosper as it stocks a huge

range of back catalogue music and videos, Kingfisher's Music and Video Club should be protected as it specialises in discounted back catalogue CDs. which are unlikely to be targeted by the supermarkets.

The smaller, independent retailers will have to carve out their own individual niche to survive, says Mr Clark.

Though the report rules out a price war, it says that the supermarkets will embark on a war of attrition" to win further

## **Terminal** cloud in open skies

Michael Harrison

British Midland, the country's second-higgest scheduled airline, warned yesterday that the completion of open skies across Europe could be held back by capacity restrictions at its

biggest airports.

From today any European carrier will be allowed to operate domestic services in any other member state - the third and final phase of the European Commission's deregulation of the airline market.

But British Midland, one of the pioneers of European liberalisation, said it feared this would not usher in cheap fares and increased competition because of airport overcrowding. Sir Michael Bishop, the airline's chairman, said: "The restrictions are such that there is now unlikely to be an explosion of carriers on the major routes, bringing down fares and re-sulting in more people travel-

He added that millions of travellers were being denied the positive effects of competition by infrastructure constraints at

ling abroad, as has happened in

Europe's busiest airports. international airport, is full and even if Terminal 5 is approved it will not open until early next century. Frankfurt is also becoming capacity constrained while Milan's Milate airport is full and Malensa airport will not be fully functional for a number of years.

According to a report by British Midland, 27 of Europe's busiest cross-border routes start or finish at airports where capacity is constrained. It estimates there are only 33 domestic routes in Europe with significant potential for new entrants to start services. Although the number of scheduled carriers operating across Europe has risen from 114 in 1987, when deregulation began, to 156 last year, the report says the German, Irish, Greek and Portuguese markets continue to be dominated by one national

flag carrier. The report says there is an urgent need to expand airport capacity, tackle the environmental problems around airports that limit capacity and make better use of existing airports.

## Ascend descends on US rival in \$3.7bn deal

The merger mania in the US network computers industry continued yesterday when Ascend Communications agreed to buy its smaller rival Cascade Communications in a \$3.7bn (£2.31bn) deaL

It follows last month's \$6bn link-up between 3Com and US Robotics and last year's \$4bn takeover of Stratacom Corpo-

ration by Cisco Systems, the market leader.
Analysts said the market for equipment that links other comdue to the rapid expansion of the Internet and private corporate networks that link up with the World Wide Web, The growth of the leading companies such as Cisco has increased pressure on other players to compete for economies of scale

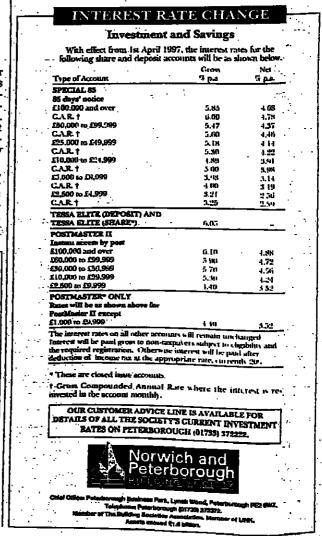
in the industry's shake-out. The enlarged company will retain the Ascend name as well as its headquarters in Alameda, California while Cascade said it did not expect any job cuts at its main base in Westford, Massputers has been growing quickly achusetts.

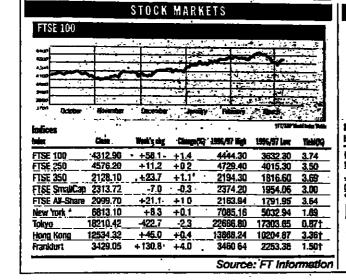
\$549m last year while Cascade's divisions: multi-media access sales were \$341m. Under the products, remote products, acterms of the share-swap Cascade shareholders will receive 0.7 Ascend shares for each of their existing Cascade shares. Ascend said the acquisition will be one of the largest ever

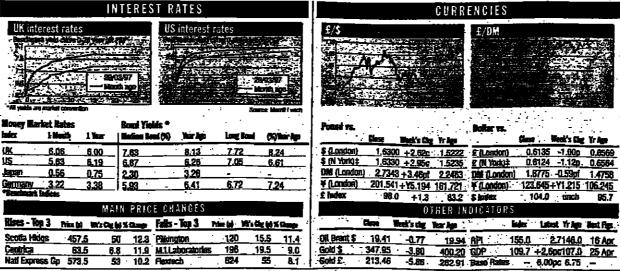
in the rapidly growing field of network computing. The group will take an as yet unspecified one-off charge against its thirdquarter profits to cover the merger-related costs. Ascend plans to re-organise

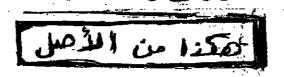
Ascend recorded sales of the Cascade business into four cess and concentrator products and core switching systems Cascade said yesterday that it expected its first-quarter earnings to be 14-15 cents, below analysts' estimates.

Commenting on the deal.
Ascend's president and chief executive Mory Ejabat said: "The combination of products, technologies and sales channels will position Ascend as one of the industry's premier providers.









lichart Harrison



## **GAVYN DAVIES**

There is no sterling crisis lying in wait for Mr Blair, but there is the question of EMU membership. If any question is likely to dog the next

administration then this would be it, and there will be pressure for a decision as early as this summer'

What Brown should budget for after the election fter 18 years in opposition, the urge to act will sit heavily on the shoulders A to act will sit heavily on the sucurior of a New Labour government, if elected this summer. Yet history counsels

in the first few weeks of office. Even now, it is possible to meet people, especially in the City, who see Messis Blair and Brown as frontmen, and who expect a rapid lurch to the left should Labour win power. They point to the disastrons example of the victorious Wilson team in 1974, the most obvious example of a left-of-centre government attempting to implement an old-fashioned programme of "tax and spend". This quickly foundered, and Labour then spent years trying desperately, and unsuc-cessfully, to recover.

This comparison is quite ridiculous. New Labour has explicitly learned the lessons of Wilson in 1974. One of the key objectives since 1994 has not only been to jettison any vestige of "tax and spend" for the sake of winning the election, but also to keep expectations realistic for the first few years of government. Hence the Gordon Brown pledge to stick to the Tory spending plans for the first two years of government. If there does turn out to be a landslide on 1 May, it would be a very odd landslide, built on sober promises and low expectations. A negative mandate perhaps, but so much the better for avoiding early mistakes in office.

1979 may be more relevant for the present case than Wilson in 1974. When Wilson won caution, since several previous administrations have, in effect, blown their inheritance the election of 1964, armed with a programme of genuine reform and hot air in roughly equal measure, he was met on the doorstep of No 10 - almost literally - by Treasury mandarins demanding action to correct the balance of payments crisis that

had been allowed to mount in the last months

of the Mandling chancellorship.
That very first weekend, Wilson, Callaghan and Brown were asked to choose between three options - devaluation of sterling, import quotas, or a temporary import surcharge. As Ben Pimlott writes in his biography of Wilson: "A decision of vital national importance could scarcely have been made under worse conditions: the decision takers barely out of an exhausting election campaign, with no recent experience of government. Not since 1945 had an incoming administration faced so severe a crisis. Then, however, the debate about financial arrangements had extended over a period of months. This time, there was a need for an instant decision."

Sadly, Wilson made the wrong decision, setting his face against devaluation and opting for an ineffective surcharge on imported goods. That instant decision, which Wilson never allowed to be properly reviewed by the

would be a bitter political defeat.

There is no such sterling crisis lying in wait for Mr Blair this time, but there is the question of EMU membership to deal with. If any question is likely to dog the next Labour administration, then this would be it, and there will be pressure for a decision as early as this summer. The lesson from the 1964-70 Labour government is to think long and hard before coming to a view, and then to ensure that the whole Cabinet is effectively locked into whatever course the prime minister chooses to follow.

different example - Mrs Thatcher's A victory in 1979 – is perhaps the most interesting, since it pertains to the live ssue of what to include in Mr Brown's July Budget. Some outside economists are arguing that the fiscal stance needs to be tightened, and that it would be advisable for the new chancellor to bite this bullet immediately, whatever commitments have been given during the election campaign.

They cite the example of the campaign of

1979, when Geoffrey Howe talked of the need to switch the burden of tax between income tax and indirect tax, and of the need to control public spending and the public secfor borrowing requirement (PSBR). But he specifically denied Labour claims that he had

Within six weeks of winning the election, the new chancellor introduced a June Budrates from 12 per cent to 14 per cent. On the face of it, this was a poke in the eye for the electorate, yet the Home Budget was not particularly unpopular, with the new chancellor winning a favourable approval rating of 38 per cent to 30 per cent in the polls. How was

It was possible because of the third main from 33 per cent to 30 per cent, and the top rate from 83 per cent to 50 per cent. These income tax cuts more than offset the impact of the jump in VAT on take-home pay, which was roughly unchanged for the average family as a result of the Budget. So the 1979 Howe markage contrary to recent mathology did package, contrary to recent mythology, did not spring an unexpected tax increase on the electorate. Instead, it went for a more audacious version of the switch between direct and indirect taxation that had been promised during the campaign. It was therefore accepted by the electorate as an extension of what the Tories were promising, rather than a reversal of the spirit of their pledges. It is difficult to be sure what the Treasury

With a sudden burch to the left completely ruled out, the early experiences of Harold Wilson in 1964 and Margaret Thatcher in the eventual devaluation of November 1967; of raising interest rates. a secret plan to bounte the take of intention | the doorsteps of Downing Street will say this ening in fiscal policy, on the grounds that any increase in taxation becomes more difficult get which raised the basic rate of VAT from as the Parliament progresses. Some may even 8 per cent to 15 per cent (increasing the RPI argue that enough loopholes have been left by almost 4 per cem) and also hiked base in the precise tax commitments made be New types from 12 cents from burden of tax, should this become necessary.

The alternative view would be that it is the spirit of the commitment on tax, and not the precise wording, that counts. New Labour is saying to the voters - trust us, we are different, we have no desire or apparent need to raise your taxes. Would they ever be forgiven for attempting to wriggle out of this commitment plank in the Howe strategy, a dramatic cut attempting to wright out of this commitment in income tax rates. The basic rate dropped within weeks of the election, when nothing new had happened to justify the change? After all, the PSBR is improving relative to previous Treasury forecasts, and the demand management case for tighter fiscal policy can already be assessed on information publicly available before the election. The Treasury "books", in themselves largely a figment of political imagination, will contain nothing un-expected to justify such a risk.

Of course, a tax switch in the July Budget, enabling Mr Brown to introduce his 10p starting rate of income tax would be possible on the Howe model. But a significant rise in the overall burden of personal taxation? That would surely be an altogether differ-

Property star Nick Leslau is planning a string of ultra-chic hotels across Europe. Tom Stevenson finds out what motivates him

# Driven by the demon fear of losing it all

cheque from disaster. A multimillionaire 10 years ago in his brightest young star says he puts because he needs the cash but because he's scared.

"Abject fear of losing is what makes you keep doing it. Ineverything, of moving back to a bedsit in West Hampstead. Which is probably absurd. There's a fun element to it of course, but none the less a rather sad side."

It certainly does seem absurd for someone with such an apparent golden touch to worry so. Ever since he reversed his tiny property development company, Burford, into partner Nigel Wray's quoted company, Chartsearch, in 1986, netting £4m in the process, he has hardly put a foot wrong. Burford prides itself on having grown its net assets seven or eight times faster than the rest of the pedestrian property sector ever since, and the company has a fan club

in the City to match. It's hard not to like Leslau, despite the fact he's the sort of bloke you'd really love to hate. At 37, he's got it all - nice house in Hampstead, young wife, nice kids, and a puzzled look on his face when trying to work out whether it's £20m or £25m he has tied up in one of the businesses he has successfully spun

But he genuinely does not seem to care about the embarrassment of cash he's piled up

 ← The idea is to be like The Ivy restaurant.

where even in a recession you can't get a seat 9

the boats, the houses abroad." This is a man who not only gets around town on a £2,000 Piaggio scooter but is so consciously unflash the first thing he did after buying it was to rip off its go-faster stripes. So this is the motorised face of Burford, is it -lean, mean and frugal? "Well, actually I didn't use it today. I had a breakfast meeting this morning at The Ritz. I didn't really want to turn up with Scooter

Helmet Hair. But I love my

scooter. It's very humanising. Looking around Burford's off from Burford. unexceptional head office, just off Oxford Street, it is hard to

ick Leslau's demons seem curious to the rest of us who rub by one pay cheque from disaster. A multimillionaire 10 years ago in his late 20s, the property world's Noddy and other Enid Blyton investor, which is now worth characters and, most recently, fly £600m 10 years after it was in hectic 12-hour days not ing off at another seeming tan- started from scratch. The usual 

is where the real man lives frugal he may be, but this is a contrived simplicity, not harsh monasticism. From the corrugated iron desk (designed by his American sculptress wife, Max-ine) to the bare plaster walls and the chairs that look oh so chic. and are oh so uncomfortable, this is not the office of a man

Securities.

This is the office where last week's move from industrial estate rent collector to dropdead-trendy hotelier was hatched. Here, the decision to team up with Ian Schrager, who rubbed shoulders in 1970s New York with Andy Warhol and Bianca Jagger and now runs the Big Apple's most fashion-able hotels, including the Paramount and the Royalton,

who dreams of running Land

suddenly makes sense. Burford is planning a string of ultra-chic hotels in London and in main cities around Eurone where it has struck an exclusive deal with Schrager. To be designed by Philippe Starck, the hotels, often renovations of redundant office buildings, are to be the last word in urban cool.

With Ian Schrager's brand, disagree with Leslau's claim which is fantastic because he



Dream team: Nick Leslau (left), Ian Schrager and Philippe Starck (right) in Leslau's frugal office

hotel, and our property management expertise, this could be a very exciting business. They're what I would call classically fashionable. Ouite dark and seductive, very comfortable, really quite sexy. Great looking

staff and there's a buzz. "The idea is to be the equivalent of The Caprice or The Ivy restaurants, where even in a recession you can't get a seat. There are very few of what you've got but what you've got people want to be in."

Quite a sideways move for a company whose other assets

really has pioneered this sort of builders' merchant in Battersea, thinking time. The trick is to some advertising hoardings on Edgware Road and Caesars Palace casino in Luton: But not a wholly unexpected development for a hyperactive team that has already spun off three businesses in 15 months - a publisher, a retail warehouse

developer and the Trocadero. Leslau says that despite ap-pearances he is no workaholic. "My first meeting this morning was at 7.30, but I'm always home in time to put my kids to bed. The pace I'm working at now actually means I'm probably being modestly ineffec-

pressures could thus mitigate

the crisis for Europe but carry

no necessary threat for the UK.

It would be illogical to take com-

fort from comparisons that de-

Flemings Investment Trust

hardship (defined as less than

40 per cent of final earnings).

be raised in line with earnings

instead of prices, OECD figures

show that UK public pension liabilities would be similar to

those of Germany, though still

well below those of France or

Italy. Hence the search for al-

ternatives schemes, such as the

Government's Pension Plus.

which offer to deliver higher re-

tirement incomes at no addi-

tional cost to the taxpayer.

If the basic pension were to

produce enough quality time so you make the right decisions."

Quality time looks like being deferred for a while yet, however. The hotels venture in which Burford has put an initial £50m, is looking at its own stock market flotation. The Trocadero, of which Leslau is also chief executive, is thinking about its very own demerger of the Enid Blyton publishing interests and grappling to solve problems with its main tenant, Segaworld. And those industrial investments won't run themselves. Time to replace the goPhotograph: Edward Webb

# Britain's pension cloud has silver lining

But is it sustainable - or could it lead to our own downfall?

Robert Laslett

One is that its pension com-

Britain has a more favourable pension position than many other European countries. How has the UK got into this position? And is it sustainable or does it contain the seeds of its (wn downfall?

Everywhere in Europe, populations are ageing and the socalled support ratio - the be met out of annual revenues number of working age people creating the income out of which the living standards of each retiree has to be financed - is falling. But it is not falling as fast in Britain as in many European countries. The World Bank's World Population Projections suggest that the UK will have the highest support ratio by 2025. We have a relatively small proportion of the population in the 35-49 age range. So while there are fewer middle-aged earners to suppart the retired in the UK now

than there are on the Continent,

the balance will shift as this

group comes to returement.

That is the demographic silver

lining in Britain's pension cloud.

that work to Britain's advantage.

mitments are much lower than elsewhere. State pensions take 6.4 per cent of the UK's GDP, a smaller share than in most other countries. Since state pensions have to

- they are not supported by a fund - the lower the level of commitments the less tax needs to be raised to pay the bill. Indexing to prices has had a large cumulative effect: real gross weekly earnings have risen 32 per cent since 1980, and the share of the basic state pension in GDP has fallen accordingly. The result is a state pension that in relative terms is less generous than it used to be, and less generous than in other Euro-

pean countries. Secondly, the UK has accumulated large stock of private pension assets - over 70 per cent of GDP - out of which future pensions can be paid. The EU countries largely lack such as-There are two other points sets. The existence of private

reasons the UK has been able crease. By the middle of the next the rest of Europe. Demoto cut state pensions so much. Since the UK scores well on all three counts, it is not swprising that it has much lower future pension commitments than most of continental Eu-

rope. IMF research suggests that average contributions of just 6.4 per cent of earnings are required to keep the UK system in actuarial balance, compared with 43 per cent in Italy\* These differences will in-

century, if present trends continue, the UK's required level of contributions will have fallen to 5 per cent of earnings over 70 per cent in Italy. But will present trends con-

tinue? Demography can change in unexpected ways. Moreover, pend on the basic British state pension falling further and further behind the incomes of these extrapolations are based those in work. on the assumption of a fixed retirement age that is already Management's 1997 "Pension breaking down in the USA, Map" suggests that over a third of the UK's 24 million houseand may do so in the UK and holds would retire in financial



But do private pensions in their present form offer a viable

way forward?
The UK's private pension assets have grown almost exclusively on the back of occugraphic and retirement age pational pension schemes. These have roots stretching back to the 1920s and 1930s, and grew enormously from the 1950s to the 1980s as more and

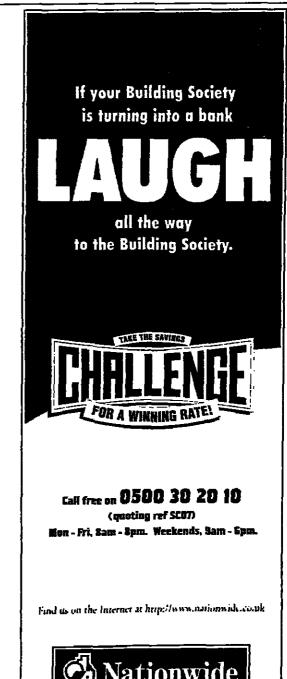
> their scope. Structural changes in labour markets, in particular towards more part-time and contract work, the growth of small companies and self-employment. and the development of personal pensions have all con-

more employees came within

tributed Personal pensions, however, do not yet constitute a complete answer. So the UK's present and prospective pension position, attractive though it may be by European standards, does not give grounds for complacency.

\* Chand & Jaeger "Ageing Populations and Public Pension Schemes". December 1996

Robert Laslett, London Eco-





Nationwide Building Society, Papers Way, Swindon SN 85 TSW,

## Rugby will never be a mass sport so long as referees continue to make decisions which are incomprehensible

The game of rugby now finds itself in a strange position. On the one hand, the laws themselves remain as complicated as they ever were, in some respects more so. But, on the other hand, players, administrators and referees are all in their different ways trying to make the game more flowing, more watchable, more suitable for what they hope will be a mass audience in an era of professionalism dominated by television.

Predictably enough, the result has been confusion all round. Forward passes are now ignored if blowing the whistle would interrupt a movement - particularly a move-ment which has resulted in a try. There were several examples of this indulgence in the Five Nations season that has just ended.

penalty-free zone. Or, to be precise. one aspect of the scrum, the crooked feed, has become a regular feature of the game. When did you last see a strike against the head in an international or, for that matter, in the Courage First or Second Divisions? Things have not yet reached the stage they are at in rugby league, where the front rows lean forward at an angle of approximately 60 degrees to the ground and the scrum-half bounces the ball off the outside leg of the loose-head prop. But this is

the way they are going.

And yet the laws are clear that a crooked feed is punishable with an indirect free-kick. It has always es-caped me quite why a deliberate attempt to gain an unfair advantage should be treated more leniently than, say, failing to release the ball

when the tackled player is in no po-sition to do anything of the kind. But acted these days.

In other respects, the scrum is the reverse of penalty-free. Indeed, it has become the most fecund source of a useful three points. Or, if a penal-ty try is awarded, of seven.

Certainly, defending props will often deliberately collapse a scrum on their own line if they think that there-by they can avoid a pushover try. But as Gerald Davies pointed out last Saturday in what we old journalists have been taught to call Another Newspaper, they do not engage in this practice nearly as much as referees clearly imagine they do. Sometimes the sinners are in the attacking front row. I have even seen a penalty awarded on the defending side's



22 and on its own put-in. What on earth would be the point of collapsing a scrum in these circumstances? The award of penalty tries has be-come even more farcical. Ten years ago such scores were rare. Thirty years ago they were more or less nonexistent. I remember seeing Terry

Here is another area which urently needs tidying up: the high or angerous tackie. It is clear that the old games masters' injunction ckle low, boy" - is not always applicable in the modern game. The ball carrier has to be smothered, turned round, prevented, in the jar-gon, from "making the ball avail-able". To accomplish this the upper part of the body has to be roughly embraced. So I am not calling for all high tackles to be penalised: merely for some consistency by referees in enforcing the law.

er fulfilled himself) virtually taking the head off an opposing wing who was careering down the touchline. All the attacking side got in return was a penalty which, being on the touchline, they duly missed.

I always the line-out. The laws now allow for some limited assistance to players in getting off the ground. Most referees interpret this to mean that, short of bringing rocket-launching equipment on to the field, anything goes. Forwards now soar heavenwards like inter-continental ballistic missiles. And, like those weapons, they often miss their target, especially when the ball is thrown

to another part of the line entirely.

The theory appears to be that the line-out should go the same way as the scrum in that the ball should be secured by the side doing the throwing-in. But this does not seem to be working out in practice, which is, I suppose, a good thing. Thus, twice this year Newcastle's Doddie Weir and Garath Archer have had the better of Richmond's jumpers.

But rugby will never be a mass sport so long as rucks and mauls remain such a large part of the game and referees continue to make decisions which are incomprehensible even to the most experienced television commentators. The present law puts a premium on killing the ball by preventing it from emerging from a maul. The side that took the ball into the maul and failed to recycle it then has the put-in at the ensuing

scrum awarded against them.
It is surely time to return to the old law which decreed that the side going forward should have the put-in. I would, however, go further. The old law also contained the doctrine of the last shove, which meant that a side defending desperately was deemed to be going forward. This would certainly not be brought back.

## Menu's ideal start to title race

**Gwyn Dolphin** 

reports from Donington Park on the start of the **British Touring Car** Championship

After three consecutive finishes as runner-up in the British Touring Car Championship, Alain Menu gave his title pursuit the best possible start with a pair of victories at Donington

The Swiss, who was outpaced by his team-mate, Jason Plato. in Sunday's qualifying sessions, was never headed in his Williams-run Renault-Laguna and jumped into an immediate championship lead.

Electrifying starts ensured that Menu was ahead of the pack by the time the world's top touring car racers reached Donington's first corner. Such was his dominance that he was able to back off and cruise to the finish of the second race.

\*The team told me to take it easy and to me easy means backing off a lot," Menu said lat-

er with a smile. Plato gave chase to his more experienced partner in both races, finishing the day's opening round in second place. However, when he was well placed to repeat the result in the second race of the day, his Renault's engine overheated and forced him to retire. "I'm still happy though. Being fastest in qualifying gave me enormous confidence and I learned a hell

of a lot," the 28-year-old said. Plato's retirement from the second round ensured the race with damaged radiators,



Dog fight: Alain Menu, driving a Renault Laguna, speeds past the Spitfire on display at Donington Park on his way to victory in a typically close-fought opening race of the British Touring Car Championship yesterday

podium place. His four-wheel drive Audi, forced to run 95kg heavier than its front-wheel drive rivals, had to give way to Rickard Rydell in the closing laps of round two, dropping to third behind the Swede's Volvo. "This result was better than I expected. I'm sure we'll improve but Menu already has a big lead in the title chase," the German said.

Both Biela and Volvo Rydell were forced out of the day's first

champion. Frank Biela, of a consequences of the close racing which brought over 30,000 spectators to the Leicestershire track. The second Volvo, driven by Kelvin Burt, was third in the opening round, just holding off David Leslie's Nissan, but gear selection problems dropped him to ninth in the day's other event.

The day could hardly have gone better for Menu. Apart from the mixed fortunes of Biela and Rydell, Gabriele Tarquini, the former BTCC champion, was only able to claim seventh and fourth place finishes. The Hon-

da driver closed on Biela as the second race wound down but, as he explained afterwards, an accident in qualifying had turned his pace-setting car into a midfield runner.

His team-mate, James Thompson, proved much quicker but lost a wheel in the first race and was forced to fight back from a spin in race two. The Yorkshireman was lying second, just ahead of Plato, when the Renault driver tried to pass. Thompson spun off then staged a fightback to finish sixth.

In his charge, he passed Derek Warwick, the former grand prix driver who was making his debut in a Vauxhall run by his own team. Warwick brought his car home in the points in both races, while his team-mate and the 1995 champion. John Cleland, was out of luck, suffering clutch failure in the second race.

Scotland's Colin Gallie made an impressive debut, claiming victory in the Total Cup for Independents in his Pyramid Motorsports BMW320.

Photograph: David Ashdown strattishi TOURING CAR CHAUSPIONSRSP (Don-ington Parrick Round One (18 Imps): J. A Maru (Hernati Lagana) 23mm 35.7796. are speed 91.23mph; 2. J. Plato (Renault Lagana) at 3.14sec; 3 K Burt (Noho S40) at 24.24; 4 D Leshe (Nosan Phomera) at 24.52; 6 J Britalific (Audi A4) 30.54; 6 P Redisch (Ford Mondoo) 35.67; 7 G Tarduni (Honda Accord) at 38.83; 8 P Welts (Peugot 400) at 39.38; 10 T Horvey (Peugot 406) at 44.78. Bogont Ban (18 Imps): 1 Mary (Peugot 406) at 44.78.

Round Fue (18 lapet): 1 Menu 29min 49.84sec, are speed 90.57mph; 2 R Rydell (Volto S40) at 2.36sec; 3 F Bela (Auch A4) at 4.26; 4 Tarquet et 5.5c; 6 Bentoffie et 11.68; 9 Thompson (Honda Accord) at 11.4.44; 7 Radisch at 20.24; 8 Warweck et 22.29; 9 Burt at 23.63; 10 C Gafe (Pysamid Motorsports BMM320) at 1.20.78. Postest Lap: Menu 1mm 37,08secs, ave speed 92,70mph.

Champlonship standings: 1 Menu 30pts; 2 Pie-to 14; 3= Burt, Brackife, Terquini, Rydeli 12; 7 Bela 10; 8 Radach 9; 9 Lesla 8; 10= Thomp-son, Warrack 5.

## **Testing time** ahead for **Frentzen**

DAVID TREMAYNE

reports from São Paulo

Heinz-Harald Frentzen made no bones about his performance in Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix. "It was nothing sensational," he said of a race in which he trailed home in ninth place while his team-mate, Jacques Villencuve,

won convincingly. "A bad start - a driver problem - then I got stuck behind two Jordans. After my second pit stop I had a gear-change problem. The return spring on the right-hand gear-lever pad-dle wasn't working because of a problem with the steeringwheel assembly, so I had to push the lever back every time with my middle finger. I could only shift at low revs and sometimes in shifting it down I went

down another gear." The young German was drafted into Williams to replace Damon Hill, and Frank Williams' decision to employ the young German with a reputation to rival that of Michael Schu-Mercedes-Benz sportscar partners aroused strong criticism. Thus far, Frentzen has been annihilated by Villeneuve, who himself was frequently beaten by Hill in the latter's successful 1996 championship season. But he insists that his confidence, al-

though battered, remains intact. "I won't give up that quickly," he said after the race. "I get more motivation out of this. I need to test because I'm not happy with the car in qualifying set-up, although we did discover that I had a broken front

damper in qualifying." Villeneuve completed 6,000 kilometres of pre-season testing when he graduated to F1 and used it to hone his unusual setthe Williams technical director said. "Then he takes care of catching it when it slides."

"Jacques certainly runs a different set-up to me," Frentzen said. "As a new guy to William my way of setting up a car is different. The team is giving me advice and at the moment I'm still working out my point of view of setting up the car, and also Williams' point of view. At the moment, it's a mixture of Damon Hill's set-up and my own, and I look forward to more testing to work in my direction."

The Williams is difficult to set up because it has more options than most cars. "Technically it is very advanced," Frentzen said, "So from a driver's point of view, and mine especially, there is much more information which I have to sort out before I make the car 100 per cent. The more information, the more things you can make wrong."

is, we would fix it." Head said. "Maybe the bumpiness here threw him. He seems to like it better when we've got more fuel of his performances so far have been very exciting, but the season's got a lot of races in it.

"I think it's going to take him half the season to get into it. Obviously, we'd like him to step into the car and be on the pace straight away, but he's not and it's something he's got to work out I could hardly imagine that he believes that was a particularly great performance.

This time last year, both Williams drivers were the class of the field. Now McLaren-Mercedes leads the constructors' championship and the competition is hotting up. If Frentzen were to receive a report right now, it would read: Nice fellow, but must do betup. "He prefers to run the car ter." Assuredly. Williams will as stiff as a kart rather than have not expect his current form to it absorb bumps," Patrick Head, continue for long.

2.00: 1. OUT RANGING (Jame Evans) 15-8 Jan. 2. Holy Joe 15-2; S. Kaderl 6-1. 10 ran. 3. h. M. Pipel. Total: £3.10; £1.30, £1.90, £1.40. Dual Forecast: £12.60. Computer Straight Forecast: £15.46. Non Rumers: Ballot Royal, Viscount Tully. flet Royal. Viscount Telly. 2.30: 1. SEOD RIOGA (N Mann) 3-1 co

to: 2. Harwell Lad 7-2: 3. Old Bridge 3-1 co fav. 6 ran. 3-1 co fav Fools Errand. 26. G. (S Mellon, Totar £4,20; £1,70, £2,10, DF: £8,20, CSF: £13,54. 3.00: 1. POTENTATE (Jarrie Evans) 100-3.00: 1. POTENTATE (Jarme Exans) 100-30: 2. Damydian 9-4: 3. Mistingheth 11-8 fav. 5 ran. 3½, 1½, (M Pipe), Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £1.90. DF: £3.40. CSF: £10.32. 3.30: 1. ZANDER: £0 Lisvalyin 9-4: 2. Ma-jor Dundee 9-4: 3. Rompelszikstich 25-1 9 ran. 6-4 fav Dorningon, 1½, 13. (N Tuston-Dawies), Tote: £3.10; £1.10; £1.20, £2.10. DF: £4.50, CSF: £6.91. NRs Calon Lan, Fear-less Hussan, Tachona.

less Hussar, Taphona. 4.00: 1. JAMES THE FIRST (M A Fitzger-ald 4-1: 2. Phersik 10-1; 3. Metwood Ces-tie 5-4 tav. 5 ran. 5, 16. (P Nichols), Tote: £4.20: £1.60, £2.70, DF: £15.30, CSF: £30.70, MR. Large Arm. 2. Rengamesque 11-2; 3. Jovie Ring 5-1. 17 man. 17. 11. (R Eckley). Tota: £31,70; £4,90, £2.50, £3.10, DF: £154,70, CSP: £128.30. Theast: £609.15. NR: Spanding

#### CARLISLE

20: 1. SOUSSE (G Lea) 6-4 for 2. To 7-1: 3. Pearls of Thought 12-1. 13 mm. 2%, 1. iMrs M Reveloy). Tota: £2.30; £1.40. £2.00, £2.60. DF: £6.70. CSF: £11.44. 2.50: 1. TOUGH TEST (B St Kilimia 11-2; 3. Conston Juleer 11-4 fav. 13 ran. 9. sht-hd. (Nirs J Gordfellow). Totar £6.80; £1.90, £2.40, £1.80. DF: £43.90. 2.30. 1.30. 1.2.30. 1.2.30. DF: 24390. CSF: 23416. Treast 289.72. 3.20: 1. ARDRINA fM Foster 2-1 fav. 2. Meedow Hymn 6-1: 3. Maggle Melody 9-2. 17 ran. 2, 11. (F Murphy). Tobe 23.40. 51 60, £2.70, £2.00. DF: £6.00. CSF:

13.53. 1. NUWAY IS Story! 20-1; 2. Gate Ahoad 6-1; 3. Raspers Rock 11-2. 10 ran. 2-1 fav Northern Squire. 21., 14. (M Barness.) Total: £13.00; £2.60, £1.70, £2.80, £7; £39.50, £5F; £133.18. Tecast: £707.40, NR: 4.20: 1. MONNAIE FORTE (B Storey) 11-

nd ul Adam), Tote: £5.10: £1.70, £2.10. £1.20, DF; £17.00, CSF; £30.29, Incast: burnet 33-1; 2. Ask Antony 4-5 fac, 3. Adon 8-1, 14 ram, 7, 14, (Mrs Richard), Total £50.10; £13.50, £1.40, 53.60. DF: £28.30. CSF: £84.51. NR: Flower of Dumblane. S.20: 1 BROTHER OF IRSS (G Lee) 9-4 fav; 2. What A Fiddler 33-1; 3. Kit Smar-

(av. 2. What A Fiddler 33-1; 3. Rt Smar-tle 14-1; 20 ran, 5, 4, (Mrs M Reveloy). Total £4.80; £3.00; £7.30; £2.90. DF: £160.20. CSF: £34.90. Piscepot: £71.60. Quadpot: £24.80. Pisce 6: £58.60. Pisce 6: £39.30.

FAKENHAM Ruth's Gamble 7-2 it-lay; 3. Arch Anglei 7-2 it-lay; 3. Arch Anglei 7-2 it-lay. 15 run. nk, 5. IS Gollings). Tota: £24.50; £5.30. £1.70. £1.50. DF: £40.60.

## HEREFORD

30: 1. NOBLE COLOURS (A) A WINE 7-2; 2. Seattle Alley 4-7 (a); 3. Sefectacher 25-1. 7 ran. 4, dist. (S Griffiths), Totar £4.90; £1.70, £1.20. DF: £2.80. CSF: £5.80.

19.65. 4: 2. Lucky Eddle 4-5 tav; 3. Qemter Mark-er 7-1. 4 ran. 6, 7. (D Mariet), Totac £2.30, DF; £1.40, CSF: £3.17. Non Rumer; Indian

HUNTINGDON

8.05; 1. NOT MY LINE (Mr W Wates) 20-1-2. Up For Ransonne 11-4; 3. Gabrig 7-1 9 ran. 5-2 fav Reverend Brown (4th), ½, 5, IA Morgani, Tota: £14.90; £3.30, £1.80, £3.20, DF; £56.50, CSF; £75.85, NR; High-

£3.20. DF: £55.50. CSF: £75.85. NR: High-land Raty.
3.40: 1. SIR DANTE (0 O'Sulivan) 9-4 fav.
2. Antigasan Flyer 6-1: 3. Five 0a toe 5-1.
7 ran. 9. 2%. R Rowel. Totae: £3.50; £2.10.
£1.90. DF: £8.80. CSF: £15.28.
4.15: 1. DROMIN LEADER (Mr W Wales)
7-4 fav. 2. Cherry Chap 20-1: 3. Sulint Bene?
8-1. 7 ran. hd., 10. U Turnen). Totae: £3.30;
£1.80. £4.40. DF: £19.80. CSF: £30.42. NRs:
Al Jawwal. Emsee-H.
4.50: 1. TIM SOLDIER (Mr R Wakley) 2-1
fav. 2. Whippers Deligit 3-1: 3. Call Me Albi

fav, 2. Whippers Delight 3-1: 3. Call Me Albi G-1. 7 ran. 2. nk. (Miss A Stokell). Total E2.80; E1.50, E1.70. DF: E2.80. CSF-E9.11. Tricast: E28.65. MR: Mine's An Ace. 1.30; £1.60, £2.70, DF: £15.30, CSF: 30.70, NR: Lanca Armstrong 4.30; 1. CASSIO'S BOY (N Mann) 20-1; Reaganeaque 11-2; 3. Joide Ming 5-1, 2 ran. 17, 11. (R Eciley), Tota: £31,00; £1.80, £2.50, £3.10, DF: £154.70, CSF: 4.90, £2.50, £3.10, DF: £154.70, CSF: 228.30, Thosa: £609.15, NR: Spanding Place 6: £35.55, Place 5: £18.07.

£1.TO, £1.20. DF: £2.80. CSF: £5.80. NRS: Shawley, Water Musc Melody, 3.05: 1 LANDSKER MISSUE (Mr N Bradley) even £v; 2. Famillar Priesed 9-1: 3. Bowt of Carls 5-1.9 mm. 15. 30. (Mrs Mary Evens). Totac £2.20; £1.30, £2.10, £1.30. DF: £7.00. CSF: £11.98. NR: Nodform Wonder.

3.40: 1. JUST ONE CANALETTO (Mr.) Goldstein) 9-1; 2. Howgell 9-2; 2. Treest Dead 5-2.7 rsm. 15-8 fav Warmer's Sports. V, 6. (N Invision-Device). Totac: £9.50; £2.90, £2.40. DF: £14.50. CSF: £49.70.

ur: 1.14.50. CSF: £49.70.
4.15: 1. LE BARON (G Torney) 5-2: 2.
5ong For Jess 100-30: 3. Autymann 7-2.
4 ran. 7-4 fav Sippery Fin (4th). 274, 374.
(C Egeron). Teta:: £3.80. DF: £3.80. CSF: £9.65.

Jockey.
5.25: 1. KYMRN (Mr A Winte) 4-1; 2. Seption Mean? 3-1; 3. Burthegton Sam 5-2. 6 sept. 2-1 tay Arabien Heights (6th), 14, 3 %, U Beddey, 170s; £4.0; £1.70, £3.70, £2.40, DF; £45.20. CSF; £38.18. Tricest: £92.69. Piecepat: £247.50. Quadpot: £77.50 (part won, pool of £84.87 to Uttreater today).
Piece 8: £178.16 Piece 5: £141.02.

2.30: 1. JASILU (S McNeil) evens fav; 2. Barron's Heir 10-1; 3. Pentera Prince 9-4. 5 ras. 1<sup>1</sup>4, 20. (K Balley), Yotes £2.20; £1.60, £2.20. DF: £4.20. CSF: £9.74. 3.00; 1. SASSIVER (K Gaule) 15-8 fav; 2. Scud Missile 4-1; 3. La Mesorquisa 3-1. B ran. 1, 20. (P Kelleway), Totac £2.80; £1.80, £2.10. DF: £5.70. CSF: £9.37. 3.30: 1. RABA RBBA (1 Jeries) 9-2; 2. Mr Conductor 11-8.3 ran. evens fav Mester Drum (unscated rider). Int. (J Spearing). Totac 53-90. DF: 53-20. CSF: 59-50. Only two fiveshed. 4-05: 1. SEASROOK LAD (W Marston) 2-

4.35: 1. ODELL (S McNell) 11-4; 2. Quick Quote evens far; 3. Appearance Money 9-4. 3 ran. 4, 30. (K Bedey). Total: £3.40. DF: £2.20. CSF: £5.33. 6.05: 1\_MAD HARRY (S McNell) 7-4 tax 5.05: J. MAD HARRY S. McNeill 7-4 rar; 2. Cue Call 9-4; 3. French County 12-1. 10 ran. 4, 3. (K Baley), Tota; £2.40; £1.30, £1.70, £2.60, DF: £3.20, CSF: £5.71. Placepot: £327.80, Quadpot: £119.60 (pat.won, pod of £5.47 to Utimaster rodsy). Place 6: £251.50, Place 5: £94.29.

£3.60; £1.80, £1.40, £1.60. DF: £5.30. CSF:

KEMPTON 1.40: 1. STRATHRORE CLEAR (Pet Eddary) 11.-2; 2. Mr Majica 18-1; 3. (Strath 40: 11.0; ran. 7-4 fav Beyond Calculation (4th). htt, hd. (6 tests, Eporni, Totes 18-20; 22-10, 22-60, 58-30. Ur: \$40.90. GSF. 880.39. Tric. 2380.80 gart won, pool of £429.09 ceraed forward to Uttoreter 3.10 today).

2.10: 1. CREFENAMAY RAY As 1850 7.2-2

2.10: 1. GREENWAY BAY (IA Hills) 7-2; 2. The Negotiator 20-1; 3. Foreign Rule 7-1. 9 ran. 2-1 fav Blue Gobbn (4th). 31, 15, 15, (G Wrage, Newmarket). Toter: £5,10; £1.80, £3.30, £2.10. DF: £99.90, CSF: £64.81. Tito: £243.70 2.40; 1. MONAASSIB (DODAnchue) 11-2.2 Ob. NoRie 13-2.3. World Premier 14-1. 11 ran. 11-4 fev Watch Me. 14, 4, (E Durlop, Newmarkst), Totac 66.20; £2.40, £1.90, £5.20. DF; £25.80. CSF; £38.59. Tist £154.30.

3.10: 1. EASTERN PROPRETS (A Clark)
20-1: 2. Sen-Deer 5-1 fav; 3. Desibrae 121; 4. Clim Born Born 7-1. 18 ran. ½, hd. (6. Lowis, Epsorn), Totae: £21.40; £4.90, £1.70, £3.80, £2.50, De; £8.80, £5.\*, £105.38. Loses: £1.214.26. Inc: £1.121.80. 3.40: 1. ROMIOS (7 Quirn) 1.4-1; 2. Secret Aly 12-1: 3. Dreams End 8-1; 4. Hazard A Guess: 7-1. 20 tan. 5-1 fav Hardy Dancer £5th, ni, 1½, £7 Cole, Winttombel. Tota: £18.00; £3.90, £3.10, £2.50, £2.40. DF: £115.70, £55°, £151.86. Tricast: £18.00; £3.90, £3.10, £2.50, £2.40. DF: £115.70, £55°, £151.86. Tricast: £13.68.97. Tric: £503.40. 4.15° ± 1.08 MASSEN U Reach 11-10 fav; 2. Germano 16-1; 3. Proper Eline 100-30. 5 tan. 2½, 2. (M Stolie, Newmorket), Totae: £2.00; £140, £3.20, DF: £16.30, £5° £15.90. 3.10: 1. EASTERN PROPHETS (A Clerk)

\$1.50. 4.45: 1. SINGLE EMPTRE (J Red) 3-1: 2. Provide Falcon 6-1: 3. London Lights 7-4 law 6 ram, 5th-th, 3½, (P Chappis-Hyam, Monton). Toke: \$4.10; \$2.10, \$2.30. DF: £11.40. CSF: £19.18. Jackpot: not won (pool of £34\_143.70 car-ned lowerd to Universe today). Placepot: £3,928.20. Quadpot: £26.90. Place 6: £696.67. Place 5: £133.90.

## YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

#### MARKET RASEN 2.15: 1 OUR ROBERT (F Learly) 5-2; 2. Thome Arena 7-4 tay; 3. Dentes Amour 25-1. 11 ran. hd, 4. (J. Fit;Gereid). Tota: 63.10; £1.40, £1.80, £4.30. Dual Forecast £3,00, CSF: £8.04. Winner bought in for 3,000

guiness.
2.45: 1. FORMAL INVITATION (R. Juhrson) 4-7 (av. 2. Bornes Patrol 33-1; 3. Desert Brave 6-1. 7 run. dist, 4. (D Nicholson). Tota: £1.60; £1.40, £6.50. DF: £20.80, CSF:

220.58, 3.20:1. MY CHEEK! MAN (R Johnson) 11-10 fay, 2. Keen To The Last 9-1; 3. Dur Kris 10-1, 7 ram. 6, 24. (D Nicholson). Totar: 22.00; 22.00, 22.60. Dual Forecast: 27.00. CSP. £12.53. Tricest: £70.64. Super Rapier (10-1) was withdrawn not under orders; Rule 4 applies, deduction 10p in the pound to all lets.

a sposes, deduction 10p in the pound to all belts.

3.55: 1. NETHERBY SAID (R. Supple) 1-2 fax; 2. Dering Past 7-2; 3. Newhall Prince 3-1. 3 man. 22, 26. (P. Beaumont). Tokes £1.50. OF: £1.80. CSF. £2.57.

4.30: 1. PHAR SMOOTHER (F. Leshy) 11. 10; 2. Morpheus 10-11 fax; 3. Raise A Deller 12-1. 5 man. 7, 3. (J. Fizgerath).

5.00: 1. OCEAN LEADER (R. Johnson) 15-2; 2. Kartenastino 3-1; 3. Absalen Heir 14-1. 8 ran. 5-4 fav The Golfopni major (reft), 7, det. (Mrs. D. Haine). Tokes £11.20; £2.30. £1.10, £5.80. DF: £24.90. CSF. £53.85. Theast £308.87.

5.30: 1. LAREDO (C. Scuider) 8-1; 2. Seweeb 10-1; 3. Double Star 20-1. 14 ran. evens fav Dg For Gold. 5, 29. (Noel T Chance). Tokes £3.50: £2.50, £7.70, £6.00. DF: £206.20. CSF: £12.63.99. Placepot: £15.90. Quadgot: £25.60.

#### Placepot: £15.90. Quadpot: £25.60.\* Place 6: £12.87. Place 5: £8.22. **NEWCASTLE**

NEWCASI LE

2.26: 1. MENERSWILLE (I. Deport) 8-11 fay;
2. Tignello 10-1; 3. Final Thia! 10-1; 10 ran,
Ind. 2. U Gooden, Newmarket), Tobe: £1.70;
£1.40. £1.50, £2.80. DF: £4.80. CSF:
19.12. The: £21.40.
2.86: 1. STATELY PRINCESS (I. Debort)
5-4; 2. Carsenbo 12-1; 3. Flower O'Cosmie
11-2. 4 ran, 11-10 fevourte Amonis's Double (4th). ½, ½. (M. Channon, Upper Lembourn). Totae £2.30. Dual Forecast: £7.10.
CSF: £12.48.
3.30: 1. GANDER (f. Sidner, 7-2 fax; 2.

CSF: £12.48.
3.30: 1. GADOS (T Sidds) 7-2 fee; 2. Sandmoor Denlim 14-1; 3. Seconds Away 16-1: 4. Sheraz 10-1. 20 ran. 3, ht. | A Belley, Tapolely, Tethes 5-1.0: £1.80, £3.90.
£7.10, £2.30. 09. £55.00. CSF: £63.92 Telegraph 4.00: 1. SURPRISE NESSION (I Forume) -8 fav: 2. Broadstains Beauty 16-1; 3.

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£15.70; £3.60, £2.00, £1.60, £5.40, DP. £55.70, CSF: £108.88, Treast £342.91, Tro: £103.30.

#### Place 6: £41.43. Place 5: £28.48. NEWTON ABBOT

NEWTON ABBOT
2.15: 1. MELT THE CLOUDS (C Maude)
4.7 fay; 2. White Plains 9.4; 3. Generator
9.2. 3 ran. 7, 20. (M Ppe). Tota: £1.80.
DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.18.
2.50: 1. DECYBONG (C Maude) 2.5 fay;
2. Country Keeper 9.4; 3. Russic Flight 91.3 ran. Dist., dist., (M Ppe). Tota: £1.40.
DF: £1.40. CSF: £1.72.
3.25: 1. BOWDEN SURPMISE (V Sistery)
16-1; 2. Sokosah 4-1; 3. Jay £m Ess; 11-8
fav. 9 ran. 2, 6. (R Baken). Tota: £21.80;
£3.00, £1.70, £1.60. DF: £97.20. CSF:
£53.48. Thosai: £141.33.

ESI.48. Theast: £141\_33.
4,00: 1. MISTRESS ROSE: £C Webb) 92; 2. Welk: in The Woods 9-4. 3 ras. 4-9 fav Dubeis (pulled up). 14. (M Hai). Tota: £5.50. DF: £4.60. CSF: £12.16. NF: Implight.
4.35: 1. MELLOW MASTER (C Mounts) 15-8; 2. The Bruwer 5-1; 3. Moonlight Escapade 4-1. 6 ran. 6-4 fav Prince of Spades (4th), 24, 4. (N Weisen), Totac 5-3,60; £1.80, £2.80. DF: £7.20. CSF: £13.02.

52:90 DF: 57:24 USF: ELSOC: Trait. Non Runner: Font Romeu. Placeport £189:50. Quadrot: £80.00 (pert won, pool of £17.04 to Unicetter today). Place 6: £81.24. Place 5: £41.09.

NOTTINGHAM 2.20; 1. LORD SMITH (D Sweeney) 11-10 for; 2. Who Nose 8-1; 3. Pink Ticket 6-1. 8 ran, 2, six-bd. (W Turner). Totas £2.10; £1.40, £2.20, £1.90. DF: £10.60. CSF:

23.03. 3.20: 1. TREASSURE TOUCH || Carroll 7-1; 2. Maaster Foloy 14-1; 3. Hillar's Double 6-1; 4. Distinctive Dream 25-1.18 run. 7-2 lav Perion, 37., 7., (D. Nichols), Totel 15.70; 21.30, 23.30, 21.80, 25.00; 07-21.09; 30, CSF: 52.10, 19. Tuesat: 6506.32. Trice 223.20 (part wort, pool of £260.58 to Utionster 3.10 today), 3.50: 1. RAKDIMER, [M. Firmer) 6-1; 2. Time Can Tell 5-1; 3. Madison Westcome 16-1; 11. ma. 4-1 fav Agnry Aurit (4th.). 1%, 7., 0 Dursion). Total 27.0; cf. 180, 52.00, 55.60. Df: £26.30, CSF: 138.29. Titesat: £447.31. Trice £173.70 (post wort, nors of £22.21 in et 22.21 in et 22.21

No: £173,70 (pert won, pool of £83.21 to

2.50: 2. GOOD FOR A LAUGH (O Burrows)

Placepot: £164.80. Quadpot: £136.50. Place 6: £205.20. Place 5: £136.39. PLUMPTON PLUMP FON

2.36: 1. ANNA SOLEI. (D'Inomas) 9-2:
2. Palamon 4-1: 3. Ben Bowden 4-1: 3 ran.
11-4 fav Eskimo Kiss (pulled up). Vs. 13. (D
Shewood). Tota: 26.80; £2.10, £1.90,
£1.80. DE: £18.30. CSF: £22.32. Titless:
£70.56. NRs: Harbittoth, Petros Gem.
3.00: 1. RUSTIC GENT (J B Karanagh)
10-1: 2. Mr Beam 7-4; 3. Dewen Chaece 6-4
fav. 6 ran. 12, 4, (Mrs. J. Jewell). Tota: £9.30;
£2.80, £1.80. DF: £10.10. CSF: £28.60. NR:
Mreanmeto.

Mheanmeito.
3-30: 1. REVERSE THRUST (M Cinton)
14-1; 2. Alice Intermetional 7-2; 3. Real
Madrid 8-1. 11. res. 7-4 by Sun Of Spring
15th; str-4d, 5. (P Hedger), Toda: £21.50;
54.30, £1.50, £2.20, Dr. £59.70. CSF.

£23.61.
4.30: 1. NORMARANGE (J. R. KINNORGH)
1-2 (by: 2. River Guite 7-2. 4 ran. 4. (D. Grid-selli, Tobe: £1.60. (F: £2.30. GSP. £2.78.
8.00: 1. NIGHT IN A MILLION (I. Appel) 7-1; 2. Bon Voyage 4: 1. 3. Smuggler's Polar 7-2; 7 ran. 1:-8 fax Kely Mac (8th). 2:4, 10. 5 Woodman, Tota: 67.50; 52.20, 52.80. DP: £14.70. CSF: £34.35. Placespot: £131.80. Qondpot: £42.00. Places 6; £232.65. Places S: £128.32.

# TOWCESTER

TOWCESTER

2.18:1 ANF (D Sigma) 5-1; 2. Paulion
9-2; 3. Captain Taody 10-1. 8 ran. 9-4 fav
Rash in The Pan (80). 5rt-hd, 8. U Joseph.
Tohn: £7.10; £1.70, £1.60, £2.20, DF:
£18.70, CSF: £2.7-4, Tricost: £205.17.
2.ASF.1 SLEAZEY (S Current 4-5 fav. 2.
Patt Salling 5-2: 3: Copper Cable 4-1.4
ran. 1, dist. U G O'Nelli). Tobe: £1.80, DF:
£2.20, CSF: £3.26.
3.18: 1. MERLINS DREAM (J A McCordy)
7-2: 2. Lay & Off 6-1; 3. Danger Baby 51.8 ran. 3-1 fav Sheshn Led (43)-3, 1½,
(O Shematod). Tota: £5.00; £1.70. £1.70,
£1.90, DF: £24.30, CSF: £25.64. Tricast:
£100.35. NPC Castor Cay.
3.60: 1. ROSS DANCER (J Magen) 7-1;
2. Stac-Poliside 9-4 fav. 3. Cabochon 8.
1.8 ran. rk. 1½, (J Moore). Tota: £1.00,0;
£250, £1.20, £1.70. DF: £12.20; CSF:
£2.51. Tricast George 5-2 3. Telesiston Lad
7-1.3 ran. 31, fixt. (Mass C Saunders). Tobe:
£1.80, DF: £1.30, CSF: £1.80,
4.85: 1. RANK OF VISION (J Magne) 9-4;
2. Semaleum Fight, 25-1; 3. Risate Dough
3-1, 10 ran. 2-1 fav Mr Dercy (60), 1½, 4,
(C Merril). Tobe: £27.00, CSF: £55.31,
Pleospot: £78.90, Quedpot: £28.50.
Press & £77.87, Pleos & £29.56.

Placepot: £78.90. Quadpot: £28.50. Place 6: £87.87. Place 5: £29.46. UTTOXETER 7. Arrogant Heir 16-1: 3. Ezanak 7-2. 4 zan. rk, 24. (K Balla). Tota: £1.40. DF: £7-80. CSF: £8.78. 2.15: 1. HAYAARI (FJ O'Subvent) 2.5 far;

11-1 12 ran. 11-4 (av Turpin's Green, 15, 5, (A Hobbs), Totat £3.90; £1.50, £3.20, 5. (A H0009). Terms: 23-50, 25-20, 25

2. Beechfield Piver 12-1; 3. Cilburnel News 8-1. 12 ran. nk, 8. U Old). Tota: £4.20; £1.90, £3.10, £3.40. DF: £19.70. CSF: £34.60. Tricast: £211.91. NRs: Blazing Miracie, Joy For Life. 4.00: 1. GRIZZLY BEAR (J Callotyl 14-1; 2. Lock German Hotel 7-4; 3. Final Best

13-8 fev. 7 ram. 2, 22. (R Stronge). Total: £12.50; £3.50, £1.60. DF: £19.40. CSP: £39.75. 9.75. 4.85: 1, CARLINGFORD LANCES (GUDION) 3-1; 2. Bellyes Boy 11-4; 3. Dank Calk 5-1. 5 ras. 7-4 for Imperial Virtage, 16, 8, (7. Thomson Jones), Totac £4.30; £1.80, £1.80, DF; £8.60. CSF; £11.58. Non Rumter: Fid-DT: 20.000 con-dens Pits.

5.10: 1. MOTOQUA (Mr R Thornton) 6-4;

2. Keytur's Carotesel (16-1; 3. Rheerbeak Rose 10-1. 9 ran. 11-8 for Farmery Line (160).

\*\*Electron Table 22.70; £1.60,

6, 1 1/L (I) Nicholson). Tota: £2.70; £1.60, £4.00, £1.50, DP: £39.20, CSF: £23.82, MR ot: £183.40. Quadpot: £109.70.

WARWICK 2.90: 1. VAX RAPPUE IS Drownel 8-1; 2. Margello 12-1; 3. Always Lecky 5-1, 14 mm, 5-2 fav Treatre of Dreams (4th), 1½, nk, ú Spearney, Totar: £10-60; £2.70, £3-60, £1.70, £0-62, £1.70, £3-62, £3-62, £45,90. 3.00: L COUNT TONY (D Biggs) 25-1; 2. Tango King 11-2 fev; 3. Mystic Quest 12-1. 12 ran. ½, 1½. (S Woods). Tote: £27.60; £5.90, £2.80, £4.00. DF: £110.80. CSF:

roday). 3.36: 1. MAD MILITANT (1 Sprake) 8-1; 2. Vola Via 12-1; 3. Morro Ludy 10-1 12 ran. 5-2 lav Vet Again (5th). 7. 17. A Streems, Total: £7.00; £1.40, £3.10, £3.30 DF: £35.70, CSF. £99.51. Treast: £918.81.

DF: £36,70. CSF: £89.51. Those: £918.60. Tdo: £89.90.
4.05: 1. DOMENIANT DUCHESS (K Falon)
5-2: 2. As-is-4-5 (m; 3. Recquists d'Or 401. 6 ram. 1/4. 6. U Hillst. Totat: £3.30; £1.70.
£1.40. DF: £2.00. CSF: £4.54.
4.40: 1. RUSSEM MUSIC: (K Falon) 114 £ tay; 2. Carmanita 6-1; 3. King of Pere
11-4 J. tax: 8 ram. 3/4. 3. (Miss Gay Kelleway). Totat: £3.90; £1.40, £2.30, £1.60. DF:
£10.10. CSF: £18.13. NR: Lanely Leader. Tho:
£7.80. .80. \$.10: 1. NAPOLEON STAR (N Adems) 12-

Edut, Ed. of the Eroson Con-Image: £489.48. This: £79.80. Placepor: £413.00. Quadpot: £19.00. Place & £264.97. Place 5: £60.41. WETHERBY

1; 2. Sotonien 16-1; 3. G La High 5-2 iav. 13 ran. 4, 14. (S Bownig). Tota: £15.90; £3.00, £3.90. OF: £103.30. CSF: £188.81.

2.18: 1. BARTON HERCHTS (P Niver) 5.
2 (F Rev. 2: Jainmeit 11-4; 3. Mardood 331. 8 ran. 5-2 (F for Five Fings (Apr), %, 7.
(Mas M Revelley), Total: 53-50; £1-40; £1-30;
£7-30. Dr.: £6-60. CSF: £9-64. Totalst:
£170.68. NRs: Crazy Home Dencer, Green-Bett Means.

8. 4 ran. 3, 12. (Mrs M Reveloy). Tota: £1.90. Dual Forecast: £3.00. Computer Straight Fore-

Dual Process: 1.500. Computer Straight Forest: £5.49.
3.16: 1. GOOD VIBES (L.Wyerl.4-1.1 fbs;
2. Ardesroch Prince 3-1; 3. Sturfin Stars 331. 8 rats. 3, 25. (f Easterbyl. Tota: £1.60;
£1.20, £1.10, £4.50. DF: £1.40. CSF

21.93. 1. MENMORE-SPEED (Richard Quest 5-1; 2. Deep Decision 7-1; 2. Reyal Vacation 4-1. 5 ran. 5-4 fav Random Harvest turnsetted (vider). 17, 4. (Airs. 5 shett). Rotes 25.70; £2.00, £2.20. DF; £15.30. CSP. 532.32 L MINGS SERMON & Wyerl 9.2. 4.15: L MINGS SERMON & Wyerl 9.2. 2. Tico Gold 7-1: 3. Cool Weather 11-2. 6 ran. evens fav Gaelic Base (rell), 11, 1% (P Beaumond). Tota: 55.10: 52.10, 62.40, Dail Forecast: £29.00, CSF: £32.10. Only three

rished . 4.45: 1 KIERCHEM (Mrs S Grand 8-1, 2. Teejay'n'aktch 7-1: 3. Faithful Hand 3-1. 10 ren. evers fav Fryup Sateline (5th). 14. 12. (C Grant). Tota: £10.30; £2.50, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £40.50. CSF: £61.53. Tressi:

Place 6: £190,00, Quadpot: £29,50. Place 6: £392,69. Place 5: £214,10. WINCANTON

WRICANTON

2.00: 1. MRS EM II. Currants 2-1 fr-fav.

2. Royal Ruler 14: 1; 3. Neat Feat 2-1 fr-fav.

5. Neat Feat 2-1 fr-fav. 3 man. 19., 19., 19. Netrojto. Totat £3.00: £1.20. £1.40. Dust Forecast: £13.70. Curropator Straight Forecast: £31.88.

2.30: 1. STROMESAVER (M Barry 5-1; 2. Dromshans 4-7 fax. 6 ran. 20., 10: 800/89. Totat £6.40: £2.30. £1.50. Dust Forecast: £2.80. CSF: £8.70. Non Runner: Posite £6.80.

2.3.00: 1. PROUD MAGE (R Hobser) 2-1; 2. Aim Cheermaithe 5-1; 3. Aimages 3-1.5 ren. 6-4 for Prect Cade; 4:th). 5. 10. (6 McCourt). Tota: £2-40; £1.40, £2.30. DF: £11.60. CSF: £12.51. 3.30: 1. SEVSO (P Herriey) 11-2; 2. Miss Martigold 3-1; 3. Virtuage Charet 2-1. 4 ren. 6-5 for Senteda Boy (Fel). 2, dist, 6f Balent. Tota: £8.30. Dual Forecast: £13.50. CSF: £22.57. 4.00: 1. CORPUS (D J Keurnagh) 12-1. 2. Olimer Duckett: 11-2. 5 ran. 13-8 for Northern Singer. £9. (R Hodges). Tota: £11.50; £3.20. £2.30. Dual Forecast: £19.30. CSF: £61.79, Non Runner: Beou Beblierd.

ferd. 4-30: 1 IGLMINGTON (P Hide) 9-4: 2

Pitcapot: £566.00, Quadpot: Notwon. Port of £35.30 carried forward to Ultimater 1059. Place 6: £723.06. Place 5: £494.92.

3.55: 1. MUDARIM () Filely) 13-2; 2. Ambie Speedy 14-1; 3. The Grey Menk 9-2 for, 4. Papillon 6-1, 20 cm, srd-td, 11,MM 1 Pinnah, Tete: £5.00; £1.40, £3.90, £2.30, £1.60. Reverse: £90.00. CSF. £79.34. Ticose £427.72. Nonfurner; Ray al Moustmann.

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FAIRYHOUSE

10-2

12-1

12-1

10-1

14-1

18-1

16-1\_

25-1

40-1

40-1

33 1

50-1

66 Y

\_66.1

100-1

100-1

100-1

200-1 100-1 200-1 150-1 200-1 100-1 200-1 150-1

20-1 20-1

Grand National Handicap Chase acceptors (4m 4f)

ome (frameshade) Lord Ordens (5 Brookshow/9:123b) Day IC Brooks/1043ib White Hide (A L T Moore 9st 13th

Go Ballistic U ("Shea/9588th

to Streetone () Tate ( Ostable)

Second Welle (1 Forster/9s/8th)

Challenger Du Ling (M Proc/10st9lb) Spotra Dave (Synon Earle/9:#13|b)

Feethered Gate (A L 7 Moore 10st3h)

Marter Cets (K Barley 11sr108)

New Co (M Morrs 9:19)

Marke (P Fahyr9st2tb)

Chamot (H. Baley 9s: 7(b)

Ington y Gritord-85%

Plak Gie (M Hammond/Bst) Pleatic Spaceage (1 Okt. 8st2tb)

kutoni Beach (M Pro Rst 4th)

Checkle (H Manners 95137b)

Northern Hide (M Salaman/9st)

Streight Talk (P Nicholis Scotto)

Tame For A Right (E O'Gran) 9-13(b)

Legopie (Mrs. ) Bramoš 9st 13(b) Auro Amena (M Camacho/105/20)

Subbre Band (Mrs. J. Primon Ser 10th) 16-1 Balancet King (P. Nicholls (10st 18) 16-1

School Bounce (G Richards 10411b) 25-1

Null Bean Led (Mrs. J. Pitman 10s(9th) 25-1

Behops Hall (H De Bromhead 10:11th) 40-1

River Mandate (1 Forster Rst12th) 40-1
Stater Standards (G McCourt Rst12th) 40-1

Devolute Trite (D Nacholson Str 121b) 23-1

Vallent Warrier (M Hammond 9st6lb) 60-1

Calcie Abbay (Mr. C Hardings/Bst 78) 100-1

Omicens Boy (N Twistori-Davies/Rst9lb) 6F-1

Department (M Proc Res 10th) 100-1

taster Boston (R Woodhouse 9sl 3b) 100-1 100-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Am);

ee P Honby 8 si2th 100-1

Don't Light Up (Miss V Walkoms/Bst2(b) 200-1

Pulp Of Quita (Mass H Knight Statello) 50-1

Christmas Come (N Cassies 3:17(b) 68-1 5(-)

Proof: Brains (N 7 Dames/Stillin) 100-1 66-1 100-1 56-1

150-1

rer The Stream M Millson/Set201 150-1 100-1 200-1 66-1

100-1 100-1

# National set for **Pitman**

Racing RICHARD EDMONDSON

When the great portfolio of dodgy photographs is catalogued it may be that the Cottingley fairies and The Surgeon's image of the Loch Ness monster are joined in the album by the finish of the 1997 Irish Grand National.

To all who witnessed a traumatic struggle up Pairyhouse's rising straight yesterday it appeared that the first nose past the line belonged to the home side's Amble Speedy. When the Polaroid was peeled however the victor was announced as Jenny Pitman's Mudahim, A loose horse charging past the central combatants at the post in the opposite direction made detailed analysis of the closing

stages even more difficult. Mudahim's success etched another line into the record book of British racing's grand dame, as Pitman completed a full set of National victories following previous glory at Aintree, and in the Welsh, Scottish and Midlands versions.

The vibes had been mixed before flag-fall. Only five Britishtrained runners had been successful in the event's 127-year history, but Pitman went into the race having already relieved the Irish of one of their treasured baubles, the Ladbroke

Hurdle, earlier in the year. Mudahim went into bat with seven other British beasts, the largest contingent ever to cross the water for the race. The challenge was soon diminished when Sister Stephanie decided not to bother. Aardwolf then had a lie down after the second obstacle, though he did take a

hand in the finish, travelling in the wrong direction.

There were other worrying signs for the travellers, who were reputed to require easy going to give of their best, as little puffs of dust appeared when hooves collided with the ground on landing side. This factor did for The Grey Monk, though the topweight still managed to slog his way round for third place. The grey at least will fight another day, which is not a sentiment that can be applied to Coq Hardi Affair and The Latvian

> RECHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Campaign (Wetherby 3.20) NB: El Nido (Southwell 2.30)

Lark. Both gave their lives and made Noel Meade's Co Meath yard a less than joyous establishment last night.
At the finish though, it ini-

tially appeared that Arthur Moore and Francis Woods, successful last year with Feathered Gale, had won it again. Then it was announced that Jason Titley, who collected the Grand National for Weathercock House two years ago on Royal Athlete, had prevailed.

"If I had been beaten, missing out the third and second last [which were dolled off to pro-tect stricken horses] would have been what scuttled us," Triley said. "He was pricking his ears and enjoying jumping but he began to look around him and we

nearly lost it close home. "He was jumping for fun but he wasn't doing much when we bypassed the second last or when he regained the lead about 100 yards out. I'm surprised and



lenny Pitman starts National week with Mudahlm's win in yesterday's Irish version Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

obviously delighted that the verdict has gone our way." Pitman now has even more to

chat about to Des at Liverpool at the end of this week. The Lambourn trainer is represented by Smith's Band and Nahthen Lad, who was supported with William Hill yesterday, in the big one on Saturday. There were 45 left after yesterday's acceptance stage, the most significant being the top weight, Master Oats, who will be left in at least until his trainer, Kim Bailey, walks the course on Thursday morning.

The notable riding arrangement was Charlie Swan's decision to play musical saddles,

deserting Lo Stregone (who will now be ridden by Graham Bradley) in favour of Wylde Hide, who seems to have been backed by anyone with a punt

in their pocket in recent days. By Saturday and Liverpool, Salvo Giannini, who heads the partnership behind Mudahim, may have recovered. Salvo lives in Chepstow, next door to David Broome, and when his pride and joy took the Racing Post Chase earlier this year he celebrated locally at the Tarn House pub. He eventually hit the sack at 6am and did not retire in story-book fashion with a teddy. He took a pint of lager to bed with him.

Trix is at long odds to turn the scales

Lurking among the Grand National outsiders is a horse for whom Saturday is the outcome of a plot hatched by his owner seven years ago. Turning Trix will carry the famed black and yellow colours of Mel Davies. who bought him in Ireland in 1990 with the express intention of owning an Aintree con-

Turning Trix was then a three-year-old. Now he is 10 and the sole National candidate from the top stable of David

rides. It could be that the Tote's

50-1 will prove generous. day munching grass in his retirement field on a stud farm

Davies is also the owner of Barnbrook Again, magnificent winner of the Queen Mother Champion Chase in both 1989 and 1990. "Barnie" was yester-

west of Dublin. It was Barnie's

placement - one capable of stay- drawn on Thursday will the ing a marathon distance.

"He was bought specifically as a Grand National horse," Davies said. Certainly his pedigree, by Buckskin out of Merry Run, a Deep Run mare, should ensure stamina is not the main problem. The biggest obstacle is that Turning Trix, along with others, is currently set to be burdened with considerably more weight than their handicap rating - 16lb in his in-stance. Only if the present top

prompted Davies to seek a re- weight, Master Oats, is withgelding be given a real chance

at the weights.

On the positive side, Davies says his runner hails from a family noted for not reaching their peak until the age of nine or 10. The horse is definitely in form, having won a good race at Newbury last time out. Davies says Turning Trix acts on any going and has backed him for Sat-urday. That 50-1 is an excellent price," he insists.

Chris Corrigan

#### UTTOXETER

2.10 O MY LOVE (nap) 2.40 My Nominee 3.10 Bluntswood Hall 3.40 Beatson

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places). Left-hand course. Run-in of 170yd.
Course is SE of town near B5017. Station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course. ADMISS Club \$15 (OAPs \$12); Tattersolls \$10 (OAPs \$7); Course \$4. CAR PARK: Free.

HYPERION

4.10 Charming Girl 4.40 Pearl Epee

SIS CHANGE IN LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: K Bailey — 25 winners from 116 runners gives a success railo of 21.0% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 53.53; D Nicholess — 3 farthered = 82THNN: 13.6 Buston, 15.6 Calison Bry, 2.1 Plander Bry 21 winners, 33 runners, 12.6%, 25.56; O Sherwood — 18 winners, 85 runners, 27.7%, +516.23; Miss B Knight — 14 winners, 65 runners, 21.2%, +512.10.

+ h 16.20; stass H KRIGRE — 14 winners, 60 nmpers, 21.2%, + h 12.10.

BLEADING JOCKEYS: B Danswoody — 40 winners, 168 rides, 23.5%, -£44.82; J Osberge — 23 winners, 93 rides, 30.1%, + h 77.22; A Magnire — 24 winners, 116 rides, 20.7%, + h 53.05; N WIREARSON — 23 winners, 141 rides, 16.3%, -h 17.78.

BLINKERSD FIRST TIME: Wordenath (3.10)

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: GOIT Land (2.10) has been sent 190 miles by L Lange from Carontheystown, Dandries.

210 CENTRAL TELECOM/SDX NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE

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Minimum weight: 10st. Thue handlage weights: Apollono 9st 12b. Worthy Memoriest Set 12b. Finnar's Quest 9st 10b. Erbit's Led 9st 7b.

BETTINGS: 7-2 o bily Love, S-1 Uthirumanty Castle, 11-2 Dark Phoenic, 7-1 Country Ministret, 8-1-Styllish Internal, 9-1 Cypinteth, 10b-1 had breather, 196th Seet, 12-1 Apollono, 14-1 Alphae Mist, Theoret Calm, 6olf Lovel, 18-1 Worthy Mamorine, 20-1 others.

1998: Goldwyn 4 10 13 A P McCoy 9-1 (O Nacolson) 15 san FIRM REDRINGMY CASTLE gat he preferred conditions of two miles and good ground here test time. He had become better handloopped and was having only his second run after a wind operation. So these he had become better handloopped and was having only his second run after a wind operation. So these her all become better handloopped and was having only his second run after a wind operation. So these her all become better handloopped and was having only his second run after a wind operation. So these her all become better handloopped and was having only his second run after a wind operation. So these her all become better handloopped and was having only his second run after a wind operation. So these her all become better handloopped and was having only his second run after a wind operation. So these her all become better handloopped on Country Ministret, who mays the and but summaring but his become less than consistent, as well as exportance, on the past. With so many its and buts summaring the others, at is just should out on the first, but then it Could be many class of the past wild handloop on the stylled provides and forest part and past should such him. O bly Love led on her handles debut but stylled her on the country of the past and the past past on his second on his chance to tackle good ground from a researchly handloop man, Cyphardia gave every indication on his chance to tackle good ground from a researchly her will be run and the ready to step up now that he miss to handloop has in Country that he would get his and togetter given time. He was asked hundless debu

2.40 MOUNT ARGUS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000	added
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3.10 MARSTON'S FREE TRADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £1,858
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1 4-C-X-D CAPPAIN MANNER (38) WHITE'S AND INSECT STATES (2014) Mass 1 Sector 5 10 4 W ALF-Sector 10 313/030 OAKSURY (115) (Counties C C Receive Cable Mass 1 Sector 5 10 1 4 5 5 5 0 1 5 5 5 5 6 5 6 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6
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Form GMDE

Few of these make any oppeal and a chance as taken that the admittedly moderate QMET MOMERUS can peak up note that the gists the chance to run of a few mark is a selfer on a decent surface. It is mainly giest possible that be can impose enough to beat a force like the in-form Edward Seymour, but he did show some signs of ability when a naming on north of 15 in a 12-kating handcap as Cartiste just under a year sign and the fact district help is presenting suggests that Queri Momens sert without hope. Edward Seymour as an enchanging case to be second to Knight in Sect is a Burger selfer a shouth app before winning a hundrepton selfing handcap with a bit in hand. The bean does not known to much, but this score is probably no better. Captain Naver looks a difficult rick, but it is possible he is well bendanced if he gies the run of the size. The booking of Mack Progrand lends encouragement, while the engineering Navigation William and Palo Powy are others with executions.

Selections QUEST MOMENTS SERENCE.

CLASS C) £6,500 added

BEATSON did well in the spring in his nonce season over hundre and he comes here freshmed up by a 54-day break, although the other non brea hed a few weeks of, too. Beatson will appreciate the ground and he fated a still task at the weights at Wincomon has time against one of the best closers in the country. Createniger Du Loc. Beatson did not do anything reseasority in terms of the best form when landing his December hat-fatch, but he as a his better then he first places gregoes when upond in grow at Kemp-ton in Lentany. Callison Bay has never reported great confidence since he went change, but he has gath-read in four years nevertheless, including one at this course (2nh. His beast problem is that he appear lack the heart for a light although there could be any number of research tor that. Cartainly, the sales has denginous stud. Pleaded Tay your all Newbury in November when given a never-stay-die rick by fatch Függs-ald. Plunder Bay's limitations have been exposed and although things have not gove his way since New-bury, he should not well here off the bostom rung in this.

Selection: BEATSON

4.10 MOBILEFONE GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m Penalty Value £4,756 0-312PO STAR BASE (129, (0) () David Aceth J. L. Harres 7 11 13.
0-42065 CHARMONIC GIRL (USA) (31) (CD) (C Coren) () Sherwood 6 11.3...
204-41F TEJAMO GOLD (USA) (96) (CD) (P Brotley) P Brotley 7 10 12 .....

FISHIOUS was tairly useful on the Flat Over distances upto ten fulfolings and made a warning debut over hundres on this course had steepen, eithrugh needing to be division? to best Westeby (these two deep' after crusing to the least three out. He was put straight over tender on his reappearance at Hamilington in December, but was off the page when clouding the third but and he wasn't peasewed with after that. He has a stillen that against three beat endedcapters on official, weight, terries, but he could still produce a warning link on this first ground if he jumps well. Starr Rage won the County Hundle test March and has held his form, managing to wen at Cattenack or Febbusy despite a sloped saudle. He can at his second on Shrining field at December sherewed and he has since been modeled in two compressive furnicular, born the surprised to seer him bounce back with a glood run even if a greater standard test would help. Charming did has been a let-down since a good second to Executive Design at Ascot in November from them the house in December, and Deminisher, who has been geging his act together in nouse company and had his pearer delegat of Zander housead when that home with yesterday.

Selections SEROUS

4.40 CJ PEARCE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,550				
1 F-50P11 QUITE A MANI (B) (C) (W R J Exercit S Repotentian 9 12 0				
2 ST4P31 PEARL EPEE (10) (Mrs A A Shuses) D Richolson 8 11 3				
3 RI433F GLAMANGLITZ (29) (Mrs. Julio Mentri) P Delton 7 11 2				
4 2/50-304 RARE OCCURANCE (\$3) (R H Hams) J O'Snex 7 11 2				
5 506433 SANTARRY (7) IS Telement T Dornelly 11 11 2				
6 02456F TOTAL ASSET (J.4) (Tony Forbed) A Fixnes 7 11 2				
− 6 deciared −				
DETYPIC: enems Post Epen, 2-1 Quite A Man, 9-2 GlemangRiz, 10-1 Suntarny, 14-1 Rare Occurence,				

Autonomerowith a List of 11.2 M A Fittigered 5-6 U Edwards 4 mm.

FORMS CADDE

82.AMANSSATZ ringist have his work out our against the in-torm pear Quitte A Mean and Pown! Epoce, but he
equald have been or creditable second to Highbooth at Docasciar less stree, howing jumped soundly untitaking at the trivial lest, and he could be helped by the slightly longer trip. Gening 12th from Quale A Man,
gives hat a change and Poon Epoce had hed a few problems with her jumping from furning at Barger lest
times where she was able to dominate and rain the finish out of Campache Boy. Quale A Man carried 12st
2b to viscory at Ludion lest larms, but this sak is a fougher one. Sull, he is on a rear-tack now and sure to
go wall now that he has sorted out his jumping.

Selection: GLAMANISTZ

			•
		5.10	JENKINSONS CATERIERS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,432
	-	A DOMES	AND THE TEATHER AND RESIDENCE AND A SECOND ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT
		1/200033	PLANT CALL
	2	6-003	FREND (50) (P.A. Masthews), K. Balley 6 11 6
	-	OFVO.	Services of the control of the contr
	-	900	Con Louis All
	4	CHOOP	JASONS PARM (17) (TR Defergor) W (1sy 7 11 6
•	15	2322D.F	KALADROSS (139) (Roy House) W Janie 6 11 6T Jests
			JOHOCK STUR (24) (John Marks) R Champion 6 11 6
	8	ρ	WOCK SINK (Sel forst search a citation of the processing and the search of the search
	7	5.540	LABORALLAN GOLD (77) (A keplan and R & D Johnson) Mrs J Planen 6 11 6
!	-	5.75	POLAR WOOD IN WASSIGN N WASSIGN 8 11 6 M Foster
	8		MATTER AND IN METERS A MATTER OF THE PROPERTY
	•		SICURIAN (F.) Senstuni Mis Mente Junes 5 11 6
	-		SIAVALU (USA) (14) (Am High Partnersino) M Meagner 5 11 6
,	<u> 10</u>	02	Sharm freed that Amilian Language and the second se
	11	73.T	VADLARAYS (FR) (CO) (Szerley W Clade) S Brookshaw 6 11 6 C Manufe
•			KINGS OF SPARTA (68) (Dates C Mercel) O Sterrood 4 11 0 D Buildentor
	12	٠,	White for 32 When love from the second
			- 12 declared -
			The state of the state of the Contract of States and St

BETUNE: 7-4 Variances, 9-4 Laboratora Gold, 6-1 King Of Screeks, 16-1 Scookes, 20-1 others 1996: Country Star 5-11.6 G Bioday 3-1 (C Brooks) 15 ran

Siese Brodischaw will be anticipating a good run from Quite A liken in the pravious sees and must also have high hopes of the French-bred VADLAMYS, who had just maked into a challenging position when Saling three out in Front's rack at Banger lest time. He had our a promessing calle at Wannick presently and he was a Sarugar from earther the France as a three-year-old. Laboration Book looks the lag danger. He needed the outing at Laboration and right just need this one, by, But this well-related griding had shown promise presidually and there could be a fair bit of improvement in the looker.

Selection: VADLAWYS

Best prices on Thursday's John Hughes Trophy Handicap Chase over 2m6f of the National fences at Aintree: 7-1 (C. 7) Ending: 9-1 (7) As Do Trelle; 9-1 (C) Romany Creek, 9-1 (C, T) Tho Plush, 10-1 (C, T) Glemon, 10-1 (C, H, T) Golden Sphiner, 10-1 (T) Knodi, 10-1 (C, H, T) Senot El Bernuti, 12-1 (H, T) Flimsy Bruth, 16-1 (C) The Frog Prince, 20-1 (C, H) Bells Life, 20-1 (T) Cocaswara, 20-1 (C, H, T) No Pain No Gain, 25-1 (H, T) Change The Reign, 25-1 (C, H, T) Kings Cherry, 25-1 (H) Ronyan, 33-1 (C, H) Sadior Jim, 33-1 (C, H, T) Yooman Warrior, 40-1 (T) Aly Dalley, 40-1 (H) Master Boston, 40-1 (T) Fond Rome, 66-1 (T) Flapjack Lad, 100-1 (H, T) Cropety Lad, 150-1 (T) Grüfins Bar, 250-1 (T) Super Sandy, C - Coral, H - William Hill, T - Tote

#### METHERBY

2.20 Southern Cross 2.50 Regal Romper 3.20 Campaign 3.50 Ivy House 4.20 Denim Blue 4.50 Last Try

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

Left-hand oval carcuit. Run-in of 200yds stightly uphili.

Course is NE of toys on BEE224 near junction of ASS and AI.
ADMINSTON: Each Sile (Section) and on the course is NE of toys on BEE224 near junction of ASS and AI.
ADMINSTON: Each Sile (Section) in the course Sile (ONFO E1) (cars, including up to 4 edules Sile).

BLINGSRED FIRST TIME: Fox Sparrow (4.50). WINDERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Father Sky (3.50) won at Southwell on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: R N Commander (4.30) has been

sent 22 miles by J Cornwall from Gravesend, Kent. 2.20 W CLIFFORD WATTS LTD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 4f 110yds

Out The Rest, 16-1 The Road West, 20-1 others

2.50 FERDY MURPHY'S OWNERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,300 added 2m 2280-9F DE JORDANN (163) (ICO) W Currorgham 10 12 0 ....N South 322224 RESAL ROMPER (21) (ICO) kins 5 Smith 9 11 4 "Richard Great \$1-1633 GROUSE-N-HEADNER (17) (IO) (IO) P Mortain 8 10 3 A Octobio

## Nicholson. John Kavanagh impending retirement that 3.20 LAMBSON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

marun engir, no. mentapreges veza ouesa dan rendery sa dan BETTHEE 4-1 Campaiga, 9-2 Decemps et 3-1 Celestia Godes, 13-2 Fined Earth, 7-1 Executive Design, 8-1 Thereday Night, 10-1 Share Options, 12-1 Alcien Blan, 14-1 Fourth in Line, Saits Lest, 20-1 Kinda Groovy

3.50 SEBEL NOVICE "NATIONAL" H'CAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 3m 5f £4,711 222111 FATHER SKY (7) O Sherwood 6 12 0 (4ex) \_\_ J A McCarthy B 4-24112 RY HOUSE (45) J 1 O'Nen 9 10 10 \_\_\_\_\_ R McGarth (5) F1541P MSEEP TRAIC (5) 1 Lurge 7 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_ R Supple 8 PPF-U21 THE WHOLE HOS (14) K Baley 8 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_ A Thornton

Minmum weight 10s, Inchicap weights Mater Text 9s; Ch. The Whole Hog St Sh. BETTING: events by House, 11-8 Fether Sity, 7-1 Mistor Trick, 14-1 The Whole Hog

4.20 HOWARD BROWN NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m 1f 

BETTERS: 4-9 Denim Bise, 7-2 Tom Log, 7-1 R N Commander, 14-1 Sovereigns Match, 18-1 Syrus P Turntable

4.50 HENDERSON INSURANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 012423 BURES (JAS) (D) Ms. / Brown 6 11 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ B Gastion (S) 25237 DESERT RESIDER (S1) (D) Ms M Revely 6 11 10 \_P Mean 321245 ANABRANCH (S4) (D) Ms M Revely 6 11 10 \_P Mean 321245 ANABRANCH (S4) (D) Ms L Sotial 5 11 6 \_\_\_\_\_\_ D Pean 500210 SANAMO (24) (D) Ms L Sotial 5 11 6 \_\_\_\_\_\_ P Martin (S) M Hammord 5 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_ R Ganyldy 0-87020 MOLDERS MIL (22) (D) M Meager 5 11 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Richard Spect 551813 IRSSIAM REVOLA, (S3) (D) BET T Extendy 4 10 10 \_L Myer 5-05114 LAST TRY (27) (D) S Rottnell 6 10 9 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A 5 Smith 01 0000 POX SPARROW (26) (D) N Trainer 7 10 9 \_\_\_\_\_\_ A Dobble B

~ 9 secared ~

BETTING: 5-2 Reacise Rescal, 7-2 Secared, 4-1 Desert Fighter, 7-1 Lest
Try, 10-1 Amelizanch, Bures, 12-1 Holders Hill, Ruitza, 16-1 Fox Sparrow

## SOUTHWELL

2.00 Raffies Rooster 2.30 Shakiyr 3.00 Zorba 3.30 Daawe 4.00 Julia's Relative 4.30 Tayovullin GOING: Standard. STALLS: 51 & 1m Bf — outside; rest inside. DRAW ADVANTAGB: None.

Fibresand surface; leit-band sharp, oval course.

Course to Sin W of Newark. ADMISSION: Club 512; Tatter-salls 56 (OAP Diamond Club 54, u16s free). CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST THEE: Unknown Territory (4.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Dancing Cavalier (2.00)
won at Catterie on Wednesday.
LONG-DESTANCE BURNTES: Raffer Rooster (2.00) & Carrie's Fantony (4.00) cent 215 miles by A Newcorske from Humahaw, Devon. 2.00 APRIL FOOL APPRENTICES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 6f 30212 RAPPLES ROOSTER (12) (C) A Newcords 5 9 12\_M Blobolor 4 55114-5 BEAURIONT (83) (C) (D) (EP) / Bartis 7 9 11\_\_\_\_\_ D Deeby 8 20015 SEDEREN (65% (D) Mr. M Realey 4 9 10\_P Rediction (6) 8 530241 DANCING CAVALLER (6) (C) (D) (P) Holinstead 4 9 3 (Sev.\_\_\_\_

2.30 SWAN CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2m 

~ 8 decisted — 8ETHING: 7-4 El Wido, 3-1 Kalametta, 9-2 Stanklyr, 8-1 Lordan Velvet, 10-1 Salet Keyne, Top Prize, 12-1 others 3.00 HERON MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4.025 added 1m 3f 

- 14 decianed Managem veget: "st 100. The farmicap segets: Monte Caso 79 80. Esponste: "st 70. Mexam L.o., 79 60. Acetus, Dutes 79 40. Sr Akati 6st 8b. BETTENC: 5-2 Zorba, 5-1 Monajea. Happy Brave, 6-1 Monte Cavo, 8-1 Monteint, 10-1 Fourtaned, 16-1 others 3.30 DAVID ARMES HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f

4.00 JAY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 3YO 6f 

- 9 decimed BETTING: 5-2 Julie's Relative, 11-4 hin Vicile Pouque, 2-1 Jack Says, 32 Cascorola, 10-1 Advance Repro, 18-1 Unknown Territory, 20-1 others 4.30 PEACOCK HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 7f

## **Aspell** defends Lively ride

The jockey Leighton Aspell of his riding of the defeated 1-7 favourite Lively Knight at Plumpton on Saturday. The gelding's owner, Alan Weller, has threatened to withdraw his horses, including the leading novice hurdler Boardroom Shuffle, from the stables of Lively Knight's trainer, Josh Gifford.

Weller maintained that Aspell rode "against orders" in the three-runner novice chase in which Lively Knight was never able to get to grips with the winner, Stormhill Pilgrim, who made most of the running under Gifford's stable jockey. Philip Hide.

Yesterday Aspell, a condi-tional rider, said; "It wasn't a fixed race at all. The horse just 'didn't go on the ground and he seemed over the top as he gave me no feel at all. Any professional could see from a long way out that he wasn't going on the ground. I won on him before but that was on soft going." Gifford said that Weller had

yet to pass on to him a decision on his charges. "I've not heard anything more from him today." the trainer said. "I am obviously hopeful of keeping the horses."

#### Lewis ends lean spell

Geoff Lewis came back from the wilderness with a 135-1 double at Kempton Park yesterday. The Epsom trainer tasted success for the first time since last August with Strathmore Clear (11-2) and Eastern Prophets (20-1). Lewis said: "I thought my

horses had been running a gallop short, but they are back in form, and last season's problems are behind us. I think I've got a really nice bunch of horses.

"The owners have been very patient. Remember last season was the first bad year I've had. bar my first year when I couldn't train. I had five winners in my first season. The first came on the opening day and it took me all year to get the other four."



## From Alphington to Willand via the Duckspond

Over Easter more than 300 football fans travelled to Devon from all over Britain and beyond to watch seven lowly non-League matches.

**Rupert Metcalf** ioined them with one question in mind: Why?

f your football watching does not extend beyond enduring some Premiership hard-sell on satellite television or maybe the occasional expensive trip to Old Trafford or Wembley, the chances are you will not have heard of groundhoppers.

They are supporters who, rather than follow one team, spend each season touring the country "collecting" new grounds. Which side wins is rarely relevant, it is the "tick" (and the programme) that matters. Many completed all the Football League grounds years ago, so non-League football is their usual territory - although they often spend their holidays doing the same thing all over Europe.

For the last five years the high point of the groundhoppers' calen-dar has been the Easter "Northern Hop", which featured four days of morning, afternoon and evening kick-offs around the North-east of England. The hoppers have run out of new grounds in that part of the world, though, so this year they headed west for the first of three "Devon Delights Annual Hops" staged by the Westward Developments Devon League.

The schedule was compact but punishing: four games on Good Friday and three the following day. Two coaches carried the hoppers around the county. The first event - a football quiz in Topsham Town's bar had taken place on Thursday evening, but the real action began the following morning...

Friday, 1.1am kick-off

**ALPHINGTON** 

Alphington, on the outskirts of Ex-30. Today they set a new Devon League record attendance of 537, heating the crowd of 503 for the league's very first game, between Willand and Newton Abbot, in 1992.

Phil Hiscox, the league's secretary, who has organised the whole event. is relieved that the action is under way at last, "It's been pretty hectic for the last two months," he says. We've sold 270 advance tickets for all seven games and we've had lots era crews, Alphington take a 2-0 half-



Two down and five to go: groundhoppers keep a photographic record of Teignmouth's 4-0 defeat at home to Newton St Cyres

from the media.

Hiscox expects up to 100 hoppers to pay on the gate for all or some of the seven games to swell the coffers further. "The host clubs will make money. The league won't make much, but that's not the point."

Gerry Shepherd, a hopper from Wimbledon, produces (without prompting) a photograph of himself and his friends Steve Reaney and John Stancombe, taken on a foggy Sunday morning at Horden Colliery Welfare during the "Northern Hop" three years ago. "I support football," Shepherd says. "I just go round all beauty of these places is that you can a drink here afterwards. At those Premiership places you're segregated, you can't do this, you can't do that. Sometimes you daren't shout out any-

thing for fear of retribution." As the Portakabin toilet block quivers under the weight of two cam-

of late applications and enquiries time lead against their local rivals, whose second-half pressure yields only one goal. Even though this is the first game, some of the hoppers are finding it hard to concentrate on the action. A group of five gathered near the exit for a quick getaway are discussing which Portuguese Second Division grounds they have been to.

Friday, 2pm

TEIGNMOUTH . **NEWTON ST CYRES** 

but they easily overcome the home the grounds and see the games. The team. Teignmouth are in a bit of a state: they were deducted six points walk right round the ground and have early in the season for fielding un- A delayed kick-off as tractors on the registered players and had a minus points tally for the first few weeks of the campaign. They eventually won three games but were docked three more points for the same offence so, having lost the rest of their matches, they are at the bottom of the table

The picturesque Coombe Valley ground, in a steep valley high above the sea from, suffers from subsidence. One side of the pitch is sliding slowly down the hillside, and today threat-

ens to take several hoppers with it. Bizarrely, Teignmouth field one of the most skilful players seen all weekend: Colin Anderson, once of West Bromwich, Torquay and Hereford. All his efforts go to waste, though, as Teignmouth's goalsagainst column reaches 149.

Friday, 4.30pm NEWTON ABBOT SPURS

NEWTON ABBOT .....

road from Teignmouth have slowed

the convoy of hoppers. For the second time today, a new league attendance record is set as the hoppers plus plenty of locals swell the crowd to 612 for this derby. Spurs are convincing winners of a competitive game not without skill.

Photograph: Peter Jay

One of the more dedicated hopfrom Glen Palmer is the highlight of the weekend's most entertaining Hill: "I've been to about 1,300

Rob Hornby, the club shop manger from Arnold Town in Nottinghamshire, is doing a steady trade in his book, Let's Get Hopping in the Northern Counties East League. He says: "This event is about meeting old friends - and it's a break away from the kids and the wife! But all groundhoppers are like a little fam-

Saturday, 12 noon BUDLEIGH SALIERTON..

OTTERY ST MARY....

The Greenway Lane ground is well named, as it is overlooked by rolling, wooded hills. The pitch is not much flatter, which makes good football difficult, but the home side eventually gain control.

A film crew from a Lytham St Annes-based company, commis-Duckspond ground, which has nei-sioned by Channel 4, is taping the ther wildfowl nor water, a hat-trick weekend's events. "They've inter- next year."

Miller, the author of the acclaime book The History of Non-League Football Grounds, "and each time they've mentioned trainspotting. We're not all like that, we're just fuor-

The hoppers are sensitive about sentences containing the words "trainsporting" and "anoraks". These may be unfair stereotypes but, viewing the favoured mode of clothing even on a warm afternoon, it is easy to forgive literal use of the lat-

Saturday, 3pm NEWTON ST CYRES

A splendid, rural location for a match in which the visiting team from Plymouth take a 2-0 lead before Mark Tasker converts his third penalty of the weekend to give the home side a consolation goal.

One of the Dutchmen is by now refusing interviews, and is attempting to confuse inquisitive reporters by sporting a Scotland supporters' hat. He rather gives the game away. though, by wearing clogs.

A small train speeds through

Newton St Cyres station, next to the ground, on its way from Exeter to Barnstaple. Hardly any hoppers turn round to look, proving that they really are not trainspotters. After the game Peter Wallis and about 30 other hoppers run over a railway bridge to sample the ales at The Beer Engine, one of Devon's most famous home-brew pubs, before the coaches depart.

Saturday, 6.30pm

WILLAND ROVERS TEIGNMOUTH

Colin Anderson has disappeared but Teignmouth have borrowed several players from clubs in higher leagues and shock the Devon League leaders with a third-minute goal from Richard Jones. They hang on for a totally unexpected win which puts their points tally back into the black again. Some locals mutter about checking the registration forms of all the "borrowed" merce-

Sir Bert Millichip, the former chairman of the Football Association, is here, along with Exeter City's former England international, Mark Chamberlain, to present certificates to the hoppers who have watched all

lgs blun

EILHI

seven games. "I've got a holiday home in Beer [a nearby seaside town]," says Sir Bert, to explain why he is at Willand rather than Wembley to watch England play Mexico. "I always thought a hop was a dance," adds Sir Bert,

Phil Hiscox is walking round the pitch, assessing one last crowd fig-ure, which is 528. "Counting." he bellows at anyone who dares to interrupt him. Afterwards he says: "I'm going to sleep for at least 20 hours - and then we'll start work on

## Reading take silver

lpswich and Reading took the silver medals in the European Cup-Winners Cup competitions vesterday as Ipswich lost +1 to Kampong in Utrecht and Reading fell 7-2 to the Germans Gladbacher from Munich. However the England's Under 18s took the gold medal in a Six Nations' Tournament in Cologne following their 3-2 win over Germany.

Before a large crowd at Reading in the Prudential European Cup-Winners Cup final the host team were eventually beaten by a German machine in which Christoph Bechmann, subsequently named player of the final, was the destroyer. Reading, having survived early pressure, not helped by the temporary suspension of Mark Hoskin, pened the scoring in the 19th minute, when their captain, Jon Wyatt, named man of the tournament, burst through the massed German ranks to score a glorious individual goal.

The German response was quick and lethal - three goals in an eight-minute spell before the interval, two from Florian Kueskes. As Reading tried to get back into the game after the

STONES SUPER LEAGUE

Salford (14) 27, Paris St-Germain

Sanord (14) 27, Paris Se-German (12) 26. Salford: Tries Rogers 2, Naylor, Sint; Goals Blakeley 5; Drop Goals Blakeley. Paris: Tries Bergman 3, Bird 2; Goals Robin-son 3. (3.195).

St Helens (22) 32, Sheffield Eagles (6) 12. St Helens Tries:

Hunte 3. Amold, Hammond,

love: Goals Briers 4. Sheffle

Tries Broadbent, Pinkney; Goals

Warrington (22) 35, Wigan (4) 24.

Warrington: Tries Vagana 3, Penny, Shelford, Tatupu; Goals Rop-

er 5; Drop Goal Shelford, Wigan: Tries Ellison 2, A Johnson, Mur-dock, Radlinski; Goals Famell 2. (7,213).

Aston 2. (10.344).

interval gaps opened in their defence which the Germans punished with some delightful attacking hockey. Bechmann got their fourth before Michael Hilgers cashed in with a couple and Ulrich Klaus completed the scoring for an outstanding victory - the third successive year a German team has lifted the

The bronze medal was won by Grunwald, from Poland, when they beat Polo Barcelona 4-1 in a game which included 10 suspensions, including a permanent one from each side. Following defeats of their sides in the morning Ireland

and France have been relegated to next year's B Division. In Utrecht, Kampong took an early lead through Ellen Kuipers and although Tracey Fry equalised six minutes later the home team took over with further goals from Marlies Vossen, Jeanette Lewin and Anouk Verhaegh which ensured the Dutch took the

RIDENTIAL EUROPEAN CUP-Waveler a JUP A Division Fixal: Gladbacher (Ger) 7 leading 2. 3/4th: Grumetti (Pol) 4 Pol Sarcelora (Spri) 1. 5/8th: Amsterdam / Aucca (Irl) 3; Eleaterinburg (Rus) 3 Stad Francais (Fr) 3. Eleaterinburg won 5- 4 au

RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES

Dewsbury (9) 9, Hull (2) 16. Dewsbury: Tries Eaton; Goels Eaton 2; Drop Goels Eaton. Hull: Tries Danby, Dworty, Vaikona; Goels Hewitt 2. (1,937).

Hudi KR (1.2) 26, Workington (6) 12. Hudi KR: Tries Chamberlain 2, Gene, Goulbourne, Rouse; Goals M Fletch-er 3, Workington: Tries Campbell 2; Goals Kitchin 2, (2,208).

Wakefield Trinity (6) 10, Hudder field (18) 40. Wakefield Trinity: Tri

wastered intry (c) III, Hooders-field (18) 40. Walsefield Brinty: Bies Kenworthy, Rike; Goals Daws: Hud-dersfield: Thes Hanger 2. Russell 2, Marsden, Schofield, Weston; Goals Weston 6. (3,431).

Whitehaven (20) 30, Widnes (8) 14. Whitehaven: Ities Joe, Lester, Lewth-waite, Muliumu; Goals Hetherington 6; Drop Goals Joe, Smith. Widnes: Ities D Myler 2, Thomiley; Goals Lythe.

FIRST DIVISION

### **South Africa** are crushed by Waugh

South Africa 221-8 Australia 222-3 Australia won by seven wickets

A brilliant unbeaten 115 from Mark Waugh led Australia to a crushing seven-wicket victory over South Africa in the second of seven one-day internationals, in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

Waugh's 10th one-day century levelled the series and gave Australia a much-needed boost after 13 defeats in their last 19 one-day matches.

ASSTARS WON TOSS
SOUTH AFRICA
A M Bacher C Bevan b Dale...
I Koen c Menk Waugh b Dale.
I K Noen c Menk Waugh b Dale.
I H Kattle b Galespie ........
D J Californi b Dale ......
J N Rhodes C Reffel b Bevan...
W J Cartyle b Gillespie ........
S M Policok c Dale b Warne .
I Kusener not out

5-219. Dist not but: A A Doneki. Bowling: Reifiel 9-0-33-0 (1:b);: Date 7-3-18-3; Blowett 10:1-42-0; Gliespie 10:0-51-2 (1:w); Warne 6-0-39-1 (2:b) 2:w); Bevan 8-0-33-1. S K Wareh Day Is Sympox.

S R Wasely not out

Echaer (200 3th) 2nd

Echaer (200 3th) 2nd

The first 1, 3,5 5 5,7

Fells 47, 13,5, 137

Blooding Padock 8-0-39-0 (2nth), Kotte 5-0-21.

O (1wh, Dompté 9-1-22-1 (1wh, Conje 5-0-25-0, Sympox 10-0-65-2 (Nueron 9-1-48-0 ((2nth), Day 10-1-48-0 (1)))

Did not best G S Bowell, M G Bosen, 14 Giddness, P R Redfer, A Dale, J N Gelespie.

SECOND DIVISION

Barrow (10) 34, Prescot (4) 4. Bar-row: Wes Atlunson, Hutton, Manwood, McMillan, Shaw, Slater, Goels Marwood 5. Prescot: Goels Martin 2. (781).

Namet (16) 44, Rochidal (7) 12 Hun-elet: Tries Coult 4, Brook 2, Marsson, Planger, Goals Booth 6, Rochdale: Tries Burnes, Crowther, Hayes; Goals Gart-land 2; Drop Goals Gartland. (1,280).

Lancastire Lynx (12) 31, Bettley (10) 34. Lencastire Lynx Tries Wareing 2, Firmey, Soloman, Walsh; Goets Francis 4, Rusne; Drop Goets Rusne. Battley: Tries Barnett, Price, Thornton; Goets Price, (493), Leight 44, Cartiste (16) 24, Leight 14, Cartiste (16) 24, Leight 16, Leigh

Leigh: 44, Carlisle (16) 34, Leigh: Goals Perigo 2. Carlisle: Tries Rhodes 2, Thurlow 2, Manihera, Menzles; Goals Richardson 5. (1,306).

York (24) 50, Doncaster (0) 8. York: Tries Fizzgraid 3, Chapman 2, Bad, Green, Pinder, Goals Green 9, Don-caster: Tries Lidbury, I Watson. (775).

### IAN CALLENDER reports from Kuala Lumpur

The second round of the Carlsberg ICC trophy for the 22 associate members below Test status gets under way here today without half of the top six seeds: The exit of Bermuda, the

United States and the United Arab Emirates has opened the way for Ireland and Scotland to dream about hosting games in the next World Cup, to be held in Britain in two years' time. Despite temperatures in excess of 40C, the visitors have been impressive, with Scotland, in their first tournament, winning Group D and Ireland finishing above the Americans in Group A.

The two teams are in different second-round groups and with continuing good progress they could yet meet on Thursday week in the third-place play-off with a spot in the World Cup finals as the prize.
The Netherlands, Ireland's

opponents today, and Kenya, whom Scotland face on Friday in their last second-round game, are favourites to contest the final at the Tenaga National Sports Ground on Saturday week That match, however, is like-

ly to be played in front of an aupavilion. While Kuala Lumpur can provide the grounds - all the

Salford Reds moved to second

place in Super League with a

one-point victory over Paris at

The Willows, with Darren

Rodgers scoring two vital tries.

ed the newly-promoted side's win following the dismissal of

the Paris centre, Mark Evans,

for a high tackle on Nathan

The Paris coach, Peter Mulholland, could barely contain

McAvoy in the 16th minute.

himself. "We felt the referee made a mistake, and the deci-

However, controversy cloud-

ROUND UP

**Scots' flying start** matches are being played on eight perfectly acceptable club pitches - spectator interest

from the locals is minimal. Two tents have been erected at each ground to provide the teams with protection from the unrelenting sun, and the lunches are served in purpose-built units with air conditioning at the whim of a generator on site. Promotion of the sport, which

was virtually non-existent until as recently as five years ago, has been improved by Tunku Imran, president of the Malaysia Cricket Association, who is also the son of the monarch Not only did he bring the ICC Trophy to Knala Limpur, but

in his role as vice-president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, he was instrumental in ensuring the inclusion of team sports for the first time in next year's Commonwealth Games in Malaysia. Every state has pledged to

open one ground a year, adding up to 120 cricket pitches in the country within 10 years. "Our development programme will be similar to that

adopted by squash in the country and although it will take a few years for cricket to develop to that level, we have a wealth of raw talent available to work with," the prince said. BERG ICC TRIOPHY Qualifiers for sec-rick Group A Kenya, Scotland, Cara-Imark. Group B The Netherlands, esh, Hong Kong, Ireland.

**Evans sees red as Salford soar** 

sion cost us the match," he

wins out of three, and lead Sal-ford on points difference. Saints

overwhelmed Sheffield 32-12,

with their centre, Alan Hunte,

scoring a hat-trick of tries to earn himself the man of the

In the First Division, Hull stay.

top thanks to a narrow 16-9 win

away at Dewsbury. The home side had the best of the first half

with Barry Eaton scoring a try,

landing two goals and a drop goal for a 9-2 half-time lead. But Hall staged a rousing finish, with

match award

St Helens also made it three

## Elkington leaves Monty green

pers is Peter Wallis, from Burgess

grounds. I used to support Crystal

Palace home and away. I finished the

Football League in 1979, but watch-

ing League football became too

much hassle. You're always herded

Hoppers have come from all over

England, Scotland and Wales, while

two - Henk van der Sluis and Jo-

hannes de Boer - have come from

the Netherlands. "People might

the years doing something we both

enjoy. We've become pen-friends

with many other hoppers."

BUCKFASTLEIGH RANGERS ...

On a perfect floodlit pitch at the

Friday, 7.30pm

**IVYBRIDGE TOWN** 

think that we are slightly eccentric

ANDY FARREL! reports from Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

For the Masters class in putting that both Nick Faldo and Colin Montgomerie feel they need for success at Augusta National next week, they could have done worse than watch Steve Elkington win the Players' Championship for the second

"That is the best putting performance I have ever had, the Australian confirmed after clinching a seven-stroke victory in the first tournament to feature all the top 50 players in the world since the ranking started. Elkington, who won \$630,000

(£400,000), was so sharp on the Sawgrass greens that Scott Hoch was ready to admit defeat, barring an "act of God", well before the end. Hoch had been only two behind at the start of the final round, but was battling for second place after a double bogey at the fourth. "I guess there are only so

many eight and 10-foot putts given to each group and Steve was using up all ours." Hoch said. "If I had putted as he did, then it could have been a

tries from Robert Danby, Tevi-

la Valkona and Gary Divorty. Huddersfield maintained

their unbeaten run at Wakefield Trinity to keep pressure on Hnil, Danny Russell going over for two tries and the veteran Garry Schofield one.

Hall KR won 26-12 at home

to Workington, while White-haven beat Widnes 30-14, Leroy

Joe and Aaron Lester among

Carlisle now lead the Second

Division, following a rescond-ing 344 victory at Leigh, with Rochdale slipping to a 44-17 defeat at Hunslet.

the scorers.

shots behind Elkington's 16 under total but added a seventh place to his record of 20th, fourth and 19th in his month on the Florida swing. Only one department of his game, he thinks, is holding him back from gaining his first US win. One of those missed opportunities came when the Scot lost a playoff to Elkington at the 1995 USPGA at Riviera.

"I personally thought it was a monumental effort to finish in the top 10 here the way I putted," Monty said. There was to be more in the same vein. "If I had putted half decently, I could have given Elkington a run for his money. I have proved for 10 years as a pro that I hit the ball okay, but the putting is my downfall. It was the same at Riviera. I could have won that by six shots."

Montgomerie spent Sunday playing with Brad Paxon, one of the best at holing out on the US tour, and arranged to play a practice round with the Amercan at Augusta a week today. "Today was not the right time to ask him how he does it. I am No 3 in the world and I should win more than I do, and that is down to holing out. At Augus-ta, I will probably not spend much time on the course in practice, just on the putting green." mark against his part Monty is spending this week in the US Masters.

Montgomerie finished 12 on holiday with his family at Lake Nona, the complex where Faldo is based. His routine will be slightly different: the driving range in the morning and the gym in the afternoon. While you can prove anything with statistics, those from the Players' tend to support Faldo's case rather than Monty's.

Faldo, 24th overall, topped greens in regulation, was second in fairways hit but outside the top 50 in putts per greens in regulation, the category that Elk-ington topped. Montgomerie, however, was nowhere to be seen in driving accuracy, usually the bedrock of his game. Elkington had spent three

hours practising his putting in his hotel room waiting for his afternoon tee time. "I am thrilled with the way I won this tournament," he said. "I basically blew away the best field we have ever had and did it in good fashion. It sends out a message that has to be taken notice of. Winning from wire to wire was the most difficult thing I have had to do in golf."

The challenge facing John Daly is in a different league. The former USPGA and Open champion is returning to the Betty Ford Clinic in an attempt to overcome his alcohol de pendency, putting a question mark against his participation

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football (7.45 unless stead EUROPEAN UNDER-21 GROUP FOUR Soutland y Austria .... (at Fir Park, Motherwell

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE 

SARPONOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Divis Coleraine v Gienavon; Crusaders v Cilvon Limield v Ards; Portadown v Gieraprac. F Division: Carnot v Bathynene; Distillery v

# المحكدا من الأصل

# Thomas inspires Wolves fightback

Football

NICHOLAS HARLING Queen's Park Rangers Wolverhampton Wanderers 2

For a team that had built its reputation on its performances away from Molineux, Wolverhampton Wanderers had looked vulnerable on their travels of late. Three successive defeats, all away from home, were in danger of becoming four when they trailed by two goals inside half an hour at Loftus Road yesterday.

Deciding then that with Rangers "making runs off us for a laugh", the visiting manager, Mark McGhee, made two substitutions that changed the course of the game and possibly the whole promotion issue. Most significant was his introduction of Geoff Thomas.

Rangers, hitherto rampant suddenly found they were in a match, which considering what had gone before proved doubly frustrating for their manager, Siewart Houston. "We were outstanding in the first halfhour," he said. "That was the

best I've seen from any First Division side this season."

Even Alex Ferguson, watching his son Darren in the Wolves midfield, must have been impressed by the slick one-touch play. Using fine an-gles, sharp passing and devas-tating runs off the ball, Rangers would have been out of sight by half-time had Daniele Dichio had any of the luck going. Denied once by goalkeeper

Mike Stowell's legs, the Sampdoria-bound forward also headed Paul Murray's cross against a post and was narrowly wide with another header.

Doubtless Dichio must have envied the header John Spencer placed beyond Stowell from Gavin Peacock's cross for his 14th goal of the season. Peacock then lashed in the second after Simon Barker's cross had bounced off his chest.

Wolves protested that he had used a helping hand, but the complaints were all from OPR when Don Goodman halved the arrears. Jürgen Sommer, according to the home side, was went for Steve Froggatt's corner.

Minus the suspended Steve Bull, Wolves eventually forsook their unedifying muscular approach for a more subtle one, personified by Simon Osborn's thoughtful passing. It was in pur-suing a ball threaded through by the midfielder that Goodman fell under Alan McDonald's clumsy challenge. The original referee, Steve Baines, had given way to a calf strain at halftime, but Roger Coxhead, who was promoted from assistant ref-

Sommer's reach. As McDonald went to redeem himself by attempting a late winner, he sparked off an 18-man brawl, which brought no action from Mr Coxhead save a booking for the protesting Stowell, who had gone down under a heap of warring players. Queen's Park Rangers (3-4-5): Sommer Yates, Maddix, McDoneid; Impey, Barke (Queshe, 77), Murray, Brevett: Peacock, Di chio, Spencer (Slade, 77), Substitute no used: Graham.



**Everton** to hire stop-gap manager

ANDREW MARTIN

The Everton chairman, Peter Johnson, is expected to appoint a caretaker manager for the rest of the season today, following Joe Royle's departure last week. Johnson made it clear, however, that the position would be filled only as a stopgap, before a major name takes charge at Goodison Park at the end of the season.

The news follows specula-tion that the Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear, is the club's preferred candidate. Kinnear has already dismissed any move from Selburst Park until the close season.

Johnson said: "We are making a decision overnight about the caretaker manager, who will take us through the last seven games of the seasons."

Bournemouth are expected to announce before tonight's game against Stockport that their long High Court fight for survival with debts of £4.7m has been successful.

The Second Division club's trust fund chairman, Trevor Watkins, said: "We hope to de-

clare plans to become Europe's first community-owned club." The trust fund, headed by Watkins and other prominent supporters to stave off liquidation, has been in negotiations throughout the Easter weekend that, and on the half-hour Ian with the club's creditors, in-Crook's vision bad Eadie scurcluding the Inland Revenue rying through again and once more only Phil Whitehead in goal stood in his way. which is owed £250,000.

Scotland's main injury wor-ry for tomorrow's World Cup This time the winger elected to lift the ball over Whitehead, qualifier with Austria is Darren Jackson. The Hibernian striker damaged his left shoulder during Saturday's 2-0 World beyond the crossbar as well. The Cup win over Estonia at Kilmarnock.

Fabrizio Ravanelli will rejoin Middlesbrough on Thursday in preparation for Sunday's Coca-Cola Cup final against Leicester. Ravanelli is confident he will be fit for Wembley, after extensive treatment on a hamstring injury in Italy.

The Leeds midfielder Lee Bowyer will captain the England accurately across and in came Stuart Massey to guide the ball Under-21 side in today's friendly against Switzerland at Swin-So Carrow Road was left to don's County Ground.

reflect on two vital points Bowyer, who trained with dropped, although the Norwich the full England squad in the build-up to Saturday's 2-0 win been kicked in the teeth, but fourth player to lead the side this season. He replaces Ricthen you get back to the dressing-room and discover that with cardo Scimeca following the Asthe other results things are not ton Villa defender's withdrawal with a thigh injury.

With a [riigh ini]ury.

EMSLAND U-21 v SWITZERLAND U-21 (Swindon FO): Day (Crystal Palacet Broome (Blackburn). Ferdinand (Mest Harn). Hall (Coverny).

Carregher (Nespon). Bonyer (Leds, cap). Holard (Birmangharn). Carton (Derbt. Hughes Visensia). Huckerby (Covernty), Hampbreys: IShethalf Wednesday). Sahadhabac: Briscoe (Sheffield Wednesday). Roberts Middlesbrough. Biforns (Chetsea). Bridges (Sunderland). Moore (Nottingham Forest).

Mills aids

**Port Vale's** 

challenge

As the battle for First Division

play-off places gathered pace

yesterday. Port Vale moved

into fifth with a hard-fought

2-1 victory over Tranmere, Lee

Mills scoring either side of the

interval to cancel out Kenny Irons' 23rd-minute opener.

Fellow play-off hopefuls Ip-

swich, who had striker James Scowcroft sent off for two bookable offences in the first half, suf-

fered a 2-1 defeat against struggling Grimsby. Paul Mason

gave the visitors a 10th-minute

## Blades beggar belief as Tracey adds to error count Canaries' ambitions

**GUY HODGSON** Huddersfield Town Sheffield United

Considering that Sheffield United were regarded as promotion favourites before a ball was kicked this season, they are making a fine old mess of turning opinion into fact. Automatic elevation is a dwindling hope and, after this latest reverse, even a play-off place that seemed to be a certain

straw to cling to is in jeopardy. They have not won away from Bramall Lane since Boxing Day and if they continue to hardly better but rode their luck

fall like they did in this match it could be Christmas before they get three points on their travels again. With teams around them at the top of the First Division having games in hand, such generosity may bring its own lack of reward.

In a game awash with mistakes, United had Nick Henry sent off, gave away two sloppy goals and played with such a lack of conviction it was hard to imagine them making it to the Premiership whatever route is open to them come May. Huddersfield, who also had

to secure only their second success in 11 matches.

The error-strewn tenor of the match was set within 40 seconds when Simon Tracey made the sort of mistake that finds itself on video collections of footballing calamities. There seemed little danger

when he leapt to his left to save Paul Dalton's header. It was the sort of effort goalkeepers love, too far away to justify a spectacular dive but without the power to add an ingredient of threat. Yet as Tracey hit the ground he turned like a halftackled rugby forward and smug-Jon Dyson dismissed, were gled the ball into his own net.

credit their luck but the visitors head the ball against the bar bedid not have a monopoly when fore it bounced behind him. did not have a monopoly when it came to cock-ups. Again, a goal seemed unlikely as Dave Holdsworth headed the ball towards the home area after 16 minutes, only for Lee Sinnott to lash a dipping, swerving volley

past his own goalkeeper.

Disbelief again swept round the McAlpine Stadium, although the emotion lasted barely 60 seconds. Tracey came for, and then decided to leave, a corner and consequently was out of position when Tom Cowan's looping header went over him. No goal could enter the net conventionally in this match, however, and Huddersfield could barely Henry, on the line, managed to

United's numerical advantage that was handed to them when Dyson kicked the ball

Wolves' Keith Curle (right) and John Spencer of QPR do the twostep at Loftus Road yesterday

away after 47 minutes for a second caution, lasted only briefly when Henry tripped Delroy Facey and Wayne Burnett in the space of five minutes and was dismissed. When Andy Walker came off with two minutes to go United were reduced to nine CALLECT WETE FEGURED TO HILLE MENT. IT FAILER SUMMER TO THE SUMMER SUMER SUMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER

## Reading's blunders hand the initiative to Barnsley

PHILIP BARTON

Reading Bamsley

Barnsley, who had lost only one of their last 11 League games prior to this match, may be timng their push for the second First Division automatic promotion spot to perfection, but they will rarely get more help from the opposition than Reading provided in the first 15

Burnsley simply got out of the to be denied by a fine low save

blocks quicker, harrying the from Steve Mautone. On 15 23rd goal of the season with an man on the ball in midtleld and minutes, Reading were not so accurate penalty. forcing Reading into three horrible defensive errors, two of which resulted in goals. Only 90 seconds had gone when Andy Liddell broke free in the box and delivered a speculative low cross, which central defender

the near post. Three minutes later, the Reading player-coach, Mick Gooding, misjudged a back header, allowing the pacey Clint Marcelle to burst through only

Paul Holsgrove guided inside

minutes, Reading were not so accurate penalty. lucky: Gooding again took an age to clear the ball, eventual-the perceived injustice and the the ricochet and drive low into

Holsgrove tried to make amends with a fierce 25-vard freekick but Reading's way back into the game also owed more to luck than forward planning. Lee Nogan fell under an extremely innocuous looking challenge by Arjan De Zeeuw and Trevor Morley gratefully notched up his

ly blasting it against a Barnsley remainder of the first half disleg to allow Liddell to pick up integrated into an uncultured, shapeless affair, with the players more intent on pursing niggling, personal disputes than

playing football. Bookings became inevitable and Martin Williams, De Zeeuw, Steve Blatherwick and the combative Darren Sheridan were all shown the yellow card before the interval. Tempers cooled in the second

First Division

torwich (1) ....

Port Vale (1) . Mils 36, 52

Reading (1). Worley pen 27 10,244

UNIUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Divi-sion: Burgess Hill 6 Hassacka Q: Haisharm 1 Ring-rers 1: Langers Hall 6 Hassacka Q: Haisharm 1 Ring-ners 1: Langers Hall 6 Hassacka Q: Haisharm 1 Ring-lens 1 Haisharm 2: Onleanc

nett, still found reason to book three more players as Barnsley steadied the tempo and shut Reading out.

ny Wilson, was delighted with the result but less than impressed with the referee. "Some of his decisions were diabolical." he furned. Reading (3-5-2): Mautone: Blatherwick, McPherson, Holsgrove; Bernal, Parkinson (Caskey, 77), Gooding, Williams (Quinn, 77), Bodin: Mortey (Lovel, 47), Mogan, Garneley (3-5-2): Watson; Appleby (Bossnott, 50), Mosss, De Zeeuer, Eader, Sheridan, Red-learn, Marcele, Thompson; Hendris, Luddell, Substitutes not used: Ten Heusel, Bullock.

## frustrated by Oxford Oxford failed to learn from

TREVOR HAYLETT

Oxford United After a contretemps in the Coca-Cola Cup which ended

with Norwich reduced to nine men. Oxford were never going to figure high on the Carrow Road preferred guest list and yesterday, to immense local frustration, they succeeded in their ambition of holding up the Canaries' promotion push.

If Norwich do miss out on one of the four First Division play-off places, they will know where to point the finger. Of late, they have not been at home on their own patch of turf, this draw completing a sorry sequence which has yielded just one victory in six afternots.

On the other hand, if they are to prolong their interest then it will be to Darren Eadie that manager, Mike Walker, found a The Barnsley manager, Dan- most thanks are due. When he silver lining, "You think you have gave Norwich a 10th-minute lead with his 10th goal in his last 13 outings, they looked set fair to build on Saturday's convincing win at Swindon.

It was a characteristic finish, coolly executed after Fadie. receiving a long pass from Matt Jackson, had retained his balance despite a lumbering defensive challenge.

## Edition not used: Mills. Oxford United IA-4-21: Whitehead: Robinson, Purse, Girlingt. M Ford; Gray, Smith, Murphy (Beauchamp, &Li, Messey, Moody (Windge, 71). Jemson. Substitute not used: Whyte. Referee: J Kuloy (Shefield).

FOOTBALL RESULTS

GM Vauxhali Conference Altrincham (0) ...... 0 Gatesbead (0) -764 Bos 70 (Altrincham's Harris sent off, 85 min) Mainwaring 46 Davey og 90 716 Farnborough (3) ...3 Halifax (0) Boothe 17, Harlow 24 675 Winglield 31 nesford (1) .

but succeeded only in carrying it

importance of that missed op-

portunity was underlined almost

immediately as Oxford trans-

ferred the play to the other end

Paul Moody had already

signposted the visitors' threat

with two spurned chances, but

when Darren Purse launched a

long ball from deep, Moody dis-

played an ability to steer the ball

beyond Bryan Gunn.

so bad after all." he said.

Norwich City (3-5-2): Gunn; Bradshaw (Poisson, 78). Jackson, Newmer; Adams, Milligan, Crook, Eadle, Such: Broughton (Forbes, 81), Flech. Substitute not used: Mills.

and fashioned an equaliser.

be (1) ....1 Stevenage (1) . Healy 24 Mison 7 1.014 

Slough 10) \_\_\_\_\_\_2 Dover (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Brazil 53, Abbott 68 Haag 24, Adems 84 842

World Cup Group Five Librembourg (0) ... 0 Israel (1) ... 6,086 Zohar 11, 80 Banin 56 (at Municipal stadtum, Librembourg Group Stx

Jahouta 39, Tiotel 90 (at Tarijali station, Valletta) for Tar Volt station, Valvetai
MTERLINK Startess Middland Alliance: Berwell 4 Handday Amberc C: Blakerell 1 Rushal
Commit 2: Boldmare S: Michaels O West Midlends Police O; Cheechem 1 Stopenial 1: Helesower Hannes 2 Oldbury United 2: Pelsan Visa 1
Blossich Town 3: Rocester 1 Krypenialy Victoria 3: Sandwell Bonough 1 Wilershall Town 1:
Startes Town 2 Bridgardn Town 4: Started Town
2 Pelsander Town 2.

lead, but Clive Mendonca equalised four minutes later and former Nottingham Forest striker Jason Lee came off the bench for the 74th-minute winner. Lou Macari, the Stoke manager, was escorted to the stand by security men after being ordered away from the dug-out for protesting too vehemently dur-ing their 1-0 defeat at Bradford. In the Second Division, Brentford restarted their promotion challenge with a hardfought victory over Gillingham

> sion remained unchanged. The Bees, seemingly cruising towards the title earlier this season, emerged from an inconsistent run by claiming a de-served victory at Priestfield, but they had to fight back after Iffy Onuora's 22nd-minute opener. Mark Janney and Carl Asaba clinched the points with goals either side of the interval, but Bury maintained their three-point advantage with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Wycombe.

as the top of the Second Divi-

The leading teams in the Third Division promotion race all dropped points to reduce their lead over the chasing pack. Leaders Wigan slipped to a sur-Prise 1-0 home defeat by Cardiff. while second-placed Carlisle lost 2-1 at Leyton Orient and third-placed Fulham could only draw 1-1 with Rochdale.

Australian rules AFL First round: Essendon 16.10 /1061

Basketball

MBAN New york 101 Ortamo 96; Toronto 102 Mami 97, Indiana 103 La Ciropers 96 jotz: Cleveland 94 Datas 92; Philadelphia 96 Detro: 92; Minnestoa 113 Goldon Suito 102; Detruer 99 (Masaukce 97; Phoemia 107 Seat-ric 103;

to 105
SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Budweiser
League: Chestre 98 Burningham 92; Sheffeld
C8 Traines states 98; London Towors 91 Crail
Palace 741 Longaris 93 Denty 90. National
League First Divisions Landi 88 Societics 95;
Buddon 118 Mid Susse 113, Notangam 94
Bus & Boiton 62; Salem 78 Celertin 97.

Boxing

James "Buster" Dougas, the former world champion, knocked out David Scott, of kansas City, 30 seconds into the sigh round in Columbus, Ohio on Sunday, it was the fourth straight win for the 36-year-old boser since resuming for the 36-year-old boser since resuming first career after nearly six years in netmement. In 1990 he lost the World Ecoung Association, World Bowing Coun-cial and International Bowing Federation when the Economic Modified.

Equestrianism

EASTON PARK HORSE TRIALS (Somerset):
Pedigue Chum Advanced Section I: 1 Protrue Ram 11 Hermann, GB 153 contress;
2 Last of the Incare & Wasson, GB 5-5; 3 Weiton Molecule II. Thorntuson, In: 5-5. Section
III: 1 Afred of Church Farm (B Scane, GB 18;
2 Buchley Province 14 Necholson, ND 48;
3 Aspyring (B Tart, ND 49).

Greg Norman, the world No 1, will pre-

pare for the Open to playing in the Gul-stream World Invitational at Loch Lomond from 9 to 12 July. One of the strongest fields this year will include Robert Allenby, from Australia, who hn-ished third last year, Nick Faldo, who defends his US Masters hitle this neek. MARISCO DINAH SHORE LPGA TOURNA-MENT (California) Loading Tourna-

MENT (California) Loading final scores (US Indees stated): 276 8 kmc 71 67 67 71. 278 h 1screeter 60 76 66 70 .279 4 Frun-lants 69 70 68 72; K Robbers 70 67 68 74. arth 69 70 68 72; N Hottoms 10 67 68 76 828 N Bowen TO 14 70 68; L Kackines 70 12 72 68 (63): 284 M B Zimmerman 75 74 12 63, H Kabayashi Japani 72 69 71 72 15 Greestan Swer 10 72 68 74 285 M Nor-es 71 75 72 67; D Andrews 73 71 72 69; 10 June 19 75 72 70 1 Control 19 ns 71 75 72 67; D Andreus 73 71 72 69; Beddes 68 75 72 70; I Orther Jour 70 71 72 72; D Proper 69 70 71 75 286 1 Breen 72 73 71 70; I Inviter 72 74 69 71; M McCarm 74 70 71 71; L Resmann (Sup) 74 71 69 72; P Hurst 74 69 71; L Danes 76 70 70 74 72; L Danes 73 74;

(SB) TO 70 74 72. R Marsial (SCO 66 13 13 74.

\*\*LAYERS\*\* CHARAPIORISHIP TOURNAMENT (Posts Vedra Beach: Florida) Leading Brings (DS miless stated) 272 5 Brington (Aus) 66 69 56 69. 279 5 Hoch 69 71 65 74 280 L Roberts TO 74 67 69. 281 B Faxon 70 69 72 70. 282 8 Androde 68 72 68 74, 283 T Librarian 67 71 73 72, 284 C Montgamene (CB) 70 70 71 73; T Totas 70 70 71 73; M Brodes 72 68 70 74, 285 F Counties 71 74 71 79. R Cochron 67 74 72 72; E Bs (SA) 68 71 72 74; K Trojech 71 68 70 76. 286 P Anger 72 72 71 71; M Brodes (GB 74 72 72; F S) 69 R Anger 72 72 71 71; M Brodes (GB 74 72 73 74; K Trojech 71 58 75; S Application (Aus) 71 71 70 74; F Zoeller 67 72 73 74. Larry Mees 68 68 74 76. 287 C P gray (Aus) 71 67 90 69, 288 N Fishin (GB) 71 72 73 72; N Price (Am) 75 64 71 72 88 B Langer (Gen 71 73 75 70)

SPORTING DIGEST

ice bockey

National Championship (10 lapsic 1 L Wood Honda 15:00.99 (94.13mph), Honda Uk C8500 National Cup (10 laps): 1 J Tose-land 15:27.53 (91.44mph).

Orienteering
Ian Kellstrom Riterautional (Bodmin)
Third day (relays): Men 4 x 7.6km; 1 Warhor // Goddard, 1 Edwards, 1 Howell, 5 Painer)
163mm 37se; 2 Ok 17k IC McCimyn. E Forgren, 1 Musgrave, 5 Haler 168,30; 3 South
Yorkshire (G Forgultor, 8 Edwards, C Adams,
M Chapman 199,53. Women 3 x 4,38m;
1 South Yorkshire (J James, W Smattwood, K
Bryan-Jones) 100min 56sec; 2 Sheffeld University 17 Smith, C Williams, J Stowerson,
101,01, 3 Jug Switzerland (D Guniger, M Bickel, A Grunger) 107,06.

Rugby Union
SUPER 12 (Eden Park, Aucidend); Aucidend
Bures 49 Querrelland Rods 26.
SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Super 12:
Timenus NZI: Contentury 24 Warksto 15;
Vehamnesburg: Gauting (Timesal) 35
Wellengon 37; (Durban); Niial 28; New South

V Singh (Fiji) 71 69 74 75, 291 C Rocca (b) 74 69 73 75; M McNutly (2m) 71 73 69 78, 293 M Ozaki (Japan) 70 76 71 76, 294 G Noman (Aust 71 72 72 79, 297 N Ozaki (Japan) 68 74 74 81, 299 S Lyle (GB) 68 74 77 80.

74 77 80.

SOUTHWESTERN 8 ELL DOMINION SENIORS (Son Antonio, Texas) Leading third-round scores (US unless stated): 206 0 Graham 68 69 69. 207 J Jacobs 67 71 69. 208 J Bland 70 71 67: R Royd 73 65 69 209 D Stockton 69 66 74: Ch Ch Rodinge: 67 67 73. 211 J Sige 70 71 70; V Fernande: 69 70 72. 212 G Marsh 67 72 73. 213 W Margan 74 69 70: M McQulough 70 71 72. L Thompson 69 70 74: J Aveter 70 69 74: L Gibert 68 70 75: B Ahn 73 68 74. LEADING WORTH RANKINGS (US unless 14 FADING WORTH RANKINGS (US unless 15 FADING WORTH RANKING WORTH RANKING WORTH RANKING WORTH RANKING WORTH RANKING WORTH RANKING WORTH RA 69 74; I dibert 68 70 75; 8 Ann 73 66 74. **LEADING WORLD RANKINGS** (15) unfees \$225edf: 1 G Norman (Aust 10.87pts areadge: 21 Lehrand 9.62; 3 C Morrigomene (GB) 8.79; 4 5 Elongton (Aust 8.52; 5 M Owald (Appent 9.49; 6 E Es (SA 8.46; 7 M Owald (Appent 9.14; 8 N Faldo (GB) 8.05; 9 P Mickelson 7.86, 10 N Proc. (Zim; 7.83).

HOCKEY

SIX NATIONS YOUTH TOURNAMENT (Cologne): Under-18: Germany 2 England 3. Final positions: 1 England, 2 Germany; 3 Sount, 4 Nemerlands: 5 France; 6 Scottand, Under-16: England 3 Scotland 0. Final positions: 1 Nemerlands, 2 Germany; 3 Sount; 4 England; 5 Scotland; 6 France; SUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS\* CUP (Cardiff) 8 Division finals Strotte (Botal 4 Louran (Bet) 3, 3/4 Piacess: Western Grasshopper (Sco) 5 Prance to Ren 12.

NHL: New Jersey 5 Los Angeles 2; Chicago 3 Buffalo 2; Aranem 1 Detroit 0 (Af); Dalas 3 Vancouver 2; St Louis 3 Philadelphia 2.

Motorcycling
BRITISH PRODUCTION POWERBIKE
CHAMPHONSHIP (Thruston) First round
(15 laps. 35.34 miles): 11 Sumpson, Ducat
Doma 56.15.50c (10) 1.5mmpson, Ducat
Doma 56.15.50c (10) 1.5mmpson, Ducat
Lound 10.2.65mmpson, 122.60
(10) 1.65mmph Second round (18 laps
42.408 miles): 1 Moodie 25.04.12
(10) 1.50mmph; 2.5mmpson 25.08.47, 3 Brown
25.13.40. Fastest laps: Moodie 1.22.50
(10) 2.60mmph, Honda UK 62500 Newconere Cup (10 laps. 23.56 miles): 1 N Home
15.57.74 (88.55mm) The People 1.25cc
National Championship (20 laps): 1 L Wood

Rugby League
AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE Rith round:
Canerbuy Buildes 14 North Queensland Conboys 16: Brossene Broncos 14 Cronuts
Sharks 12:

STRUCKET OPEN (Plymouth): First round: A Hemiton (Eng) bt I. Richardson (Eng) 5-2; Dele (Wall bil) J. White (Eng) 5-3; W Thorn (Eng) bt S & Ai (Pala I 5-4; D Taxlor IN (N) bt S Murphy (Rep of Int 5-2; D Harvid (Eng) bt B Sraddon (Scot) 5-4. Second round: S Davis (Eng) bt M Dawes (Eng) 5-0; G Willarson (Eng) bt D Henry (Scot) 5-1.

AMATEUR LEAGUE: Western Warners (Exelte & Newport) 60 Stattle Cubs (Wolverhamptor & Longeston) 18. EASTER CHALLENGE Second leg: Reading 48 Oxford 42, Oxford win 93-87 on appropriate 48 Odord 42, Oxford win 93-87 on agencyme. PREMIER LEAGUE CUP. Stoke 59 Bensed, 31. SUNDAYS LATE RESILETS: Tyme/fweed Trophy First leg: Bensed, 41 Newcastle 49. Second leg: Newcastle 51 Densed, 32, Newcastle win 100-80 on agg. Spring Trophy-First leg: Gaseow 53 Edinburgh 35.

SEQUENCE IN A STATE OF THE SEQUENCE OF THE SEQ LEEKES BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Carditi) Men's first round: M Carts (Oxon) (Carditty Mean's threat rounds: Mi Charris (Obon) to Dealmer (Aus) 15-12 15-10 17-14-18 Marun Augs lat P Marshall Motors 15-12 15-8 15-9; A Hell (Aus) to T Moror (Swo) 17-15-14-17 15-11 13-15 15-12: P Nool (Sco) by Polmson Hentri 7-15-15-17-15-14 15-7 15-6; Weemen's first rounds: S FitzGerold (Aus) to S Shockara (Eig 9-2-9-0-9-1; C Nixon'; CSA) to T Shortton (Statis) 9-4-9-6-9-0; Livving (Aus) by T Weede (Aus; 4-9-9-2-9-4-9-5; N Granger (SA) by Mind (Sa) 18-19-9-9-9-10-8.

Tennis Letron Championships (Key Biscayne): Men's final: T Muster (Aut) of S Bruguera(Sp) Men's small | Muster (Aut) of S Brighlera(59) 7-6-6-3-6. | 1-6-6-6-6. | Heavilles | P. Sampras (US) 1-6-6-6-6. | P. Sampras (US) 1-6-6-6-6. | P. Sampras (US) 1-6-6-6. | P. Sampras (US) 1-6-6. | P. Sampras (U Perrara (SAI 1,940, 16 i Herman (GB).

DAVIS CIAP (Doha): Asię/Oceania Group
Three: Mulaysia in Sn Lanka 3-0; Bahram bit
Bangadesh 2: Li Quiar in Pacific Oceania 2:
I Kazakhsian in Kuwati 3-0. Rinal placings:
1 Quiar; 2 Pacific Oceania: 3 Kezakhsian; 4
Kuwati: 5 Malaysia; 6 Sn Lanka; 7 Bahram:
8 Bangadesh Quiar and Pacific Oceania promoted: Bahrain, Bangladesh relegated.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

> > 47

The number of stitches above his left eye with which New York Yankees' Wade Boggs hopes to start the baseball season tonight at Seattle after being hit during batting practice. "I depends on the swelling," the team doctor said. "He's got to be able to out his helmet on."

Referee: \$ Bennett (Rechtl). iationwide Football League Second Division ool (2)......4 R Unighan 11 Breckin 88 Clarkson 39, ERs 64 5,524 14.525 Bristol Rovers (1) 2 Wreatham (0) ......0 6,225 Bradford (0) \_\_\_\_\_1 Stoke (0) \_\_\_\_\_ Pepper 49 13,579 (Stoke's Sigurdsson sent off, 60 min) 15, Beadle 80 n's Carey sent off, 44 min) ....2 **ipswich** (1) . Mason 10 6,268 Bury (0)... Daws 58 Butler 82 ---2 **Wycombs** (0) -5,714 Sernott og 16 14,551

> PWDLFAPts inci including last night's Crewe v Preston match)

LEAGUE OF WILLES Cactars O Sarry Town O: Combian 1 First Town 2; Ethin Vide 3 Caestra-ton Town 1; Holywel 5 Protymedog O; Inter Ca-bie- Tel 3 Convy O; Liancantified 1 Centacs Bay 2: Ton Pertra 4 Sunger Cay 3: Malchood O Abony-brith O. Leading positions 1 Berry (P 22, Per

Robertson 65 Craddock og 73 Stant 86 3,604 Naylor 2, pen 12, 73 (Darlington's Shaw sent off, 82 min) 2,457 kanney 36, Asaba 50 7,361 7,866 Holl (1) 1 Hereford (0) 2,818 Leyton Orient (2)...2 Carlisie (1)

Third Division

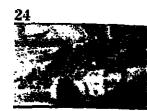
Jones 68 Forrester 85 3,212 Torquay (1) . Jack 28 Parish 17 Sampson 19 Cardiff (0) ...

40 10 8 22 48 67 36 WINSTONEAD KENT LEASUE First Division: Bedischinam Town 2 Stude Green 1; Cray Wan-derers 1 Greenwich Borough 3; Crockenish 1 Lordswood 4: Deal Town 2 Remeasure 5; Fever-shern Town 2 Chatham Town 0; Follesstone In-vide 1; Hydr United 1; Furness 1; Wookech-Town 3; Herne Bay 2 Winstable Town 2.

2 Perchare Town 2:
SCREWPK DRESCT LEAGUE Premier Circlaion:
Bridgiscest Town 1. Bridgot 1; Erricin 2 Bernstagle Town 1. Bridgot Stell United 5 Chapter-ham Town 2, Townian Town 6 Orand Town 0; Teetan Town 3 Townian 10; Teetan Town 3 Townian 10; FERSENATION BREWERFY MORTHERN League First Division: Gusbarougi 2 Wintby 4: Multim 1 Durbarn City 2: RTM Newcesto 2 Consett 0; Durston Federation 1 Sectingson Terriers 2. 3; Herne Bay 2 Wingstable Town 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Blackpool Rovers 3 Densen 1; Burscough
O Citheroe 1: Eastwood Honley 4 Microsley 1;
Classop North End 1 (Toddiestru 1; Merine Road
2 St Heters Town 1; Narrhwich Town 2 Bootle
2; Prescor coubles 1 Safford City 0; Rossendale
United 1 Vauchell G M 0 7 score desire 

المكرة المن الرجيل



**Menu masters Donington** Gwyn Dolphin on the start of the British Touring Car Championship, page 20

sport

The happy hoppers Rupert Metcalf joins a football pilgrimage to Devon, page 22

# Hingis grasps her chance in both hands



Chris Evert (above), the first player to head the women's tennis rankings, believes that of all those labelled 'the new Chrissie', the latest world No 1 is the player who most resembles her. The former Wimbledon champion talked to John Roberts

the 16-year-old Martina Hingis began her reign as the vesterday, celebrating with fellow competitors at the Family Circle Magazine Cup on Hilton Head Is-land. South Carolina, Chris Evert was doing her homework in prepa-ration for a stint in the NBC commentary box.

Evert, one of the people Hingis admires most, was the first of only seven players who have been named No 1 since computer rankings started to be used in women's tennis in November, 1975. The other five are Martina Navratilova, Tracy Austin, Steffi Graf, Monica Seles and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

The temptation to pigeon-hole sports personalities is irresistible. Although Martina Hingis was named after Martina Navratilova, her game has drawn comparisons with Maureen Connolly, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, and Evert.

"When Jennifer [Capriati] came up. and Monica and Steffi, everybody was always quick to compare," Evert says, "Because they're baseliners, the question was always will they be the next Chrissie. With the exception of maybe temperament. I don't feel like my game was that similar to any of those players.

"But I think when Martina came along. I saw a player who doesn't necessarily blow people off the court and doesn't have that one big



Martina Hingis is much admired by Chris Evert: 'She uses her head, is very composed, and anticipates well. She has more shots than I ever did

head at a young age, is very com-posed, and anticipates well. She certainly has more shots than I ever did. especially at that age, so I'm not saying that I was that good. But she is the closest one, I feel, that plays the was I used to play. I wouldn't blow anybody off the court, but I would

she defeated the then Wimbledon more. I don't think they've been conchampion, Margaret Court, 7-6, 7-6, in the semi-final of a tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina. bledon, in 1974, 1976 and 1981. she seems to enjoy it, so I don't see

weapon necessarily. She uses her prospect of analysing Hingis's mosphere around her is very con-

matches for some time to come. "I durive to playing for a long period of time. So I think she's very special." tennis for the next 10 years, let's put it that way, but I'm not surprised that she has reached the No 1 position. I think a little bit of it is obviously Steffi's injuries. It's hurt her that she hasn't played. But I think

use accuracy and consistency and
use my head out there."

Evert, from Fort Lauderdale,
Florida, came to international

Martina can only get get better.

"She's still growing, so physically she can still get stronger. Her body can get more athletic. I think she can prominence as a 15-year-old when work on the athleticism a little bit centrating as much on that while she was young and growing, because I think they feared too much, too soon. Evert went on to win 18 Grand Slam But she's got all the shots, that's for singles titles, three of them at Wim- sure. She's an all-round player, and Now 42, she is excited at the a burn-out factor there. The at-

On a point of style, how does Evert rate the strengths and weaknesses of the two-handed backhand (which she favoured), the two-handed shots on both wings, a là Seles, and the traditional one-handed backhand as used by Graf and Navratilova?

"I don't think there's anything stabbing four years ago. But Graf, better than a good two-handed backhand," she says. "Unfortuation against injuries and ailments, while nately, not a lot of players hit it the right way. Martina Hingis does hit it the right way, because the players that hit great two-handed backhand down-the-line shots are the ones that know how to hit it. Martina has that shot. Two hands on both sides. I think, still limits your reach a little bit too much. But I really feel that if you have a good sol-

id two-handed backhand, that's your best bet, because you can learn it at a young age and really de-

velop it over a long period of time." The 23-year-old Seles, we know, has found it difficult to sustain her momentum because of the injuries which have interrupted her comeback following the trauma of her

> player to know when it's time to quit? "I think they're more like in midlife crisis in their careers," she says. "I don't think they're at the end of their career. Agassi is still young. When I was 24 years old, I took a

> in the men's game, Andre Agassi, ap-

proaching 27, appears to be in free-fall. How would Evert counsel a

off and didn't pick up a racket, and

I thought maybe my career was over. I'd just gotten married [to John Lloyd, and I wanted to do other things, and then I realised it took me time away to understand how much I appreciate the talent that I had. With these players, I don't see their injuries being retirement.

impose it upon themselves, not just be forced out of the game because of injuries? If they feel burned out, they should get out of it on their on alise how lucky they are and special

six to eight years of vintage tennis. "Steffi Graf has been No I for ho many years? If she got off the tour for four months, or even six months, break. I took three or four months



and did the things that she missed out on and just relaxed and was with her family, so what? She's come back at No 15, or whatever, but it wouldn't take her long to get back up. You have to think of your on longevity and your own career.
"I retired at 34. It was entirely men-

tal. Mental burn-out, period. Nothing more, because I felt great, and actually the two years after I retired I feel like I played my best tennis. went on the exhibition tour, I felt I was more relaxed, and physically I hit the ball better than ever. But I needed more mental abilities than other players, because I didn't have the physical talent to fall back on like a Martina Navratilova or Evonne Goolagong or Steffi Graf. And I just got burned out, plain and simple."

Hingis has been coached by her mother, Melanie Molitor, since she was a tot. When does Evert intend to start training her children, Alexander James, five, Nicholas Joseph, two and half, and Colton Jack, nine months?

"When do I start training them? I'm not bringing up my kids neces-sarily the way that I as brought up. I was brought up exclusively to play tennis. My dad brought all the kids over to the courts at five years old, but he never had dreams of anybody "Why don't they just get away for three or four months? Why don't they being No 1, that's for sure. It as a way for the whole family to be together. Andy [Andy Mill, her sec-ond husband] and I expose our kids to every sport, from snow boarding accord, and then I think they'd re- to skiing to softball to soccer. I think they I figure out where their niche they are and that they have another is, if it's sports. Maybe sports is just going to be recreational, and maybe they'll be an accountant or maybe they'll use their brains a little more. I don't know.'

## India wilt in heat of fierce pace attack

#### Cricket

TONY COZIER reports from Bridgetown, Barbados West Indies 298 and 140 India 319 and 81 (West Indies win by 38 runs)

Undermined by controlled fast bowling on a treacherous pitch of uneven bounce, India were

**ACROSS** 

investigation (9)

with this? (9)

so (6-8)

10 Insect form found in river

11 Fertiliser from Antigua nor-

in volcanic rock (5)

mally (5)
12 Violent riot I lead - lead

14 In shock & terror? That

17 Loves peace settling on London? It gets you away from it all (6.8)

could be about right when

rate, that's more than cer-

No 3261, Tuesday 1 April

runs only 50 minutes after lunch on the fourth day of the third

India's hopes of achieving only their third victory in the Caribbean, and their first in 21 years, quickly evaporated as Franklyn Rose, Ian Bishop and Currly Ambrose exploited the hard, dry, well-grassed surface.

Rose, the newest off the production line, began India' woes

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

soow shows bravery (5)

heart in here? (7)
27 Spain allowed to hold people in basic unit (7)
DOWN

Like a gesture to indicate

grant (6) Boasting of British Bible

version will attract a fuss

Hard master rescued run-

ner grabbing line (5-6) What you could do with in-

chap in a type of aircraft (5-

1 A right to object to Ameri- 24 Some novel idea to shorten

24 Some novel local to shorten
can tree (7)
5 Wimpish person, true blue,
doesn't need pressing (4-3)
9 Steps to involve one in fire
24 Some novel local to shorten
writing (5)
25 Making bobtail go is compulsory (9)
26 Note about operating on

23 Getting right into granular 6 Cold housing providing one

here yesterday and beaten by 38 brought him the first three wickets in a compelling opening spell. Bishop and Ambrose finshed the job.

The unsettling nature of the pitch, evident throughout but increasingly so as the match progressed, was revealed by the contrasting dismissals of opener Navjot Singh Sidhu and the left-handed Saurav Ganguly and Mohammed Azharuddin.

Sidhu, for example, in an act routed for 81 by the West Indies with his pace and accuracy that of panic and self-preservation,

TOPDOG CHEASANT
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ALURNDSUP CAMEL
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with good convenience (5)

Equipment for lifting for-eign article on heap (7) Wanting to drop name and secure money for race-

13 Poor relation showed effect

of cut shortly - can't be

15 In money I have found the

spur (9)
16 In this church wear you'd find a realisable asset (8)
18 Pharmacist's timeless English

over run through houses (7)

20 Department stocks gold to

send home (6)
22 Trail of one abandoning

climb (5)

ish garment (7)

Maybe purport to carry US 19 Create changes to make

sufficient food intake? (3) 25 Source of metal for Swedish

borne (11)

thrust his bat at a delivery from Rose that might have decapitated him and was caught off the resulting lob to third slip.

Ganguly and Azharuddin had their stumps shattered by deliveries from Ambrose that threatened their shins. After dispatching Sidhu, Rosehad Rahul Dravid caught behind with a lifting leg-cutter and then breached opener Venkata Laxman's hesitant defensive stroke to hit the off stump. The West Indies had seized the initiative but they could not rest easily until they got rid of Sachin Tendulkar, the Indian captain and finest player. It required only 25 minutes and 14 deliveries before his edged drive at Bishop's

outswinger was expertly taken low down at first slip by Lara. Ganguly and Azharuddin followed once Ambrose replaced Rose at the northern end. While Rose had made the ball leap diseven greater height, made it skip through to the consternation

of both batsman. By lunch Bishop had also accounted for Anil Kumble, Victorycame when Bishop shattered the stumes of Presad for his fourth wicket to give West Indies a 1-0 lead in the series.

rin day, India won miss) 17 aviDIES – First landings 298 (S Chande - First leadings 319 (R S Drawd 78) MDES - Second landings 140 (Aut. 

Booting Ambrose 15-3-36-3; Bishop 11.5-4-22-4; Rose 9-2-19-3.

#### **Bolton put** champagne on ice

#### Football

Although the champagne was popped back in the fridge yesterday at least until next weekend. Bolton Wanderers are all but back in the Premiership after one season away. Their celebrations were put on hold after promotion aspirants Wolverhampton Wanderers fought back to earn a point against QPR at Loftus Road.

Bolton - 17 points clear of Barnsley at the top of the First Division at the start of the day and without a game - would have gained automatic promohad Wolves lost, but Keith Curle's 70th-minute equaliser from the penalty spot at Loftus Road means they must wait a little while longer.

ahead, and relatively uncon-

cerned when Andy Johnson took the ball from Tony Smith

to go in for Wigan. The arrival of Craig Murdock

generated some belated Wigan purpose. He supported John-

son's break to score the first of

his side's swift trio of tries, be-

fore Ellison and Kris Radlins-

ki both chased kicks to score.

was on the cards for Wigan to

stage a remarkable escape. But then Shelford was credited with

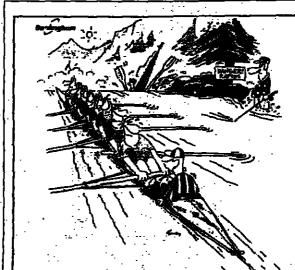
a drop goal despite Doc Mur-

"It was no stroke of genius,"

With nine minutes left, it

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## You wouldn't hold the University **Boat Race** anywhere but the Thames.

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#### Vagana eggs on Warrington Rugby League Warrington were 24 points

#### DAVID HADFIELD Warrington

Do not, I urge you, use the greet-ing Happy Easter in Wigan for the foreseeable future. Follow-

ing on the heels of their Good Friday defeat by St Helens, losing to a Warrington team with-out either a coach or a Super League point at kick-off has made it an unforgettable holi-day for all the wrong reasons. Warrington, whose coach, John Dorahy, resigned on Sat-urday after a disastrous start to the season, seized gleefully on Wigan's shortcomings at Wilder-spool to build up a match-win-

ning lead in the first half. A late Wigan charge that brought them three tries in six minutes could only briefly obscure that this was their worst performance for many years. Without the injured Henry Paul and Gary Connolly, Wigan

were truly dreadful as Warring-ton, spearheaded by their Kiwi

centre, Nigel Vagana, took con-trol with an ease that must have surprised even them. Vagana got the first of his hat-trick of tries after only five minutes, following a quick tap penalty when Wigan were caught offside.

A booming cross-field kick from Andy Parrell opened the

way for Danny Ellison to equalise, but that was Wigan's only bright spot of the half. A penalty stupidly conceded by Terry O'Connor on the last tackle allowed Warrington to pile on the pressure and score through Tony Tatupu. The Wigan coach, Eric Hughes, said his side had made

year-old scrum half, John Duffy, caught Wigan groping for the in-terception and Kelly Shelford

Vagana straight through two

Wigan tackles for his third try,

every mistake in the book" in the first half. Their next cost them another try, when Vagana picked off Sean Long's pass to go 50 yards and touch down. Before the break, an audacious long pass from the 16-

went through the gap to score. When Shelford's pass sent

ray's insistence that he had touched the ball in flight and, in the last minute, Gareth Davies broke through and Lee Penny arrived to make victory safe. Warrington's stand-in coach, Paul Culien, said of their trans-

formation. "It was a guts call and the players responded to it." Warrington: Perry: Hength, Robot (GCT (C) IL.
Warrington: Perry: Hength, Robot, Vagana,
-Forster; Shillord, Dully's Stevers, Hutma, Cross-burs, Manni, Tatupu, Scatthorpe. Subatthatan maetr: Rudd., Danies, Carries.
Wigger: Murray, Ethaon, A Johnson, Radins-M, Robinson; Long, Smith; Corele. Cassary, O'Connor, Hauggeon, Talles, Farrell, Sabatthatan seed: Hall Martinot, Mykarna